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Fiftieth Session

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82nd plenary meeting
Wednesday, 6 December 1995, 10 a.m.
New York

President: . . . . Mr. Freitas do Amaral

In the absence of the President, Mr. Pibulsonggram (Thailand), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

The Acting President: This morning, the General Assembly will consider the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) on agenda items 82 to 88, 89 and 18, 90 and 12, 91 to 93, and 18.

I request the Rapporteur of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee to introduce the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in one intervention.

Mr. Breier-Castro (Venezuela), Rapporteur of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I have the honour to present to the General Assembly for its consideration 13 reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) relating to agenda items 18 and 82 to 93.

The first report, contained in document A/50/603, relates to agenda item 82, entitled "Effects of Atomic Radiation". The Fourth Committee considered the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation and, after hearing 13 speakers in the general debate, adopted, without a vote, a draft resolution sponsored by 39 delegations. The draft resolution is contained in paragraph 6 of the report and the Fourth Committee recommends its adoption by the General Assembly.

The second report, contained in document A/50/604 on agenda item 83, is entitled "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space". The Fourth Committee considered the item in three meetings and heard 19 speakers in the general debate. The Committee, *inter alia*, endorsed the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and adopted the draft resolution without a vote. The draft is recommended for adoption by the Assembly and appears in paragraph 9 of the report.

The third report, contained in document A/50/605, relates to agenda item 84, entitled "United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East". In the general debate, 27 speakers took part and the Committee adopted seven draft resolutions on this item relating to different aspects of the work carried out by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. The related seven draft resolutions A to G are contained in paragraph 29 of the report and are recommended to the General Assembly for adoption.

The fourth report, on item 85, entitled "Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one month of the date of the meeting*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, Room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories", is contained in document A/50/606. Eleven speakers participated in the general debate on the item and the Committee adopted four draft resolutions, which are contained in paragraph 14 of the report. The Fourth Committee recommends these four draft resolutions A to D to the General Assembly for adoption.

The fifth report, on item 86, entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects", is contained in document A/50/607. The Fourth Committee devoted five meetings to and heard 69 speakers on this item. The Committee adopted without a vote a draft resolution, orally amended, which is contained in paragraph 9 of the report.

The sixth report, on item 87, entitled "Questions relating to information", is contained in document A/50/608. After hearing 39 speakers on the item, the Fourth Committee decided, by general agreement, to consider and take a decision at one and the same time on the three draft proposals before it relating to the item. The Committee adopted, without a vote, draft resolutions A and B contained in paragraph 8 and a draft decision which appears in paragraph 9. The Fourth Committee recommends their adoption to the General Assembly.

The seventh report, contained in document A/50/609, relates to item 88, entitled "Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations". The related draft resolution is contained in paragraph 8 and is recommended to the General Assembly for adoption.

The eighth report is contained in document A/50/610 and relates to item 89, "Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination". The same report contains a separate decision on the military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration. The related draft resolution on economic activities and the draft decision on military activities are contained in paragraphs 11 and 12, respectively. The Committee recommends these proposals to the General Assembly for adoption.

The ninth report, contained in document A/50/611, relates to item 90 of the agenda, "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations". The related draft resolution, which appears in paragraph 8 of the report, is recommended to the General Assembly for adoption.

The tenth report, in document A/50/612, relates to agenda item 91, "Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories". The related draft resolution is contained in paragraph 7 and is recommended to the General Assembly for adoption.

The eleventh report, on "The situation in the occupied territories of Croatia", is contained in document A/50/613. The related draft decision in paragraph 5 was adopted by the Fourth Committee and is recommended to the General Assembly for adoption.

The twelfth report is contained in document A/50/614 and relates to item 93, entitled "Question of the composition of the relevant organs of the United Nations". The Committee decided to defer consideration of the item to the fifty-first session and its recommendation on the item is contained in paragraph 3.

The thirteenth and last report of the Fourth Committee, contained in document A/50/602, relates to those Territories that were not covered by other items on the agenda, which the Committee took up under agenda item 18, "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples". Set out in the report are two draft resolutions concerning Western Sahara and New Caledonia, respectively, and a consolidated draft resolution on American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands. The Committee's decision relating to Gibraltar is also set out in the report.

In adopting these proposals, the General Assembly would, among other things, reaffirm the inalienable right of the people of those Territories to self-determination and independence and state that it is ultimately for the people of those Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Fourth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the related draft proposals, contained in paragraph 29.

On behalf of the Fourth Committee, I should like to recommend these reports to the attention of the General Assembly.

Before concluding, I wish to express my deep appreciation to the Chairman of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), Ambassador Francis Kirimi Muthaura of Kenya and the two Vice-Chairmen, Mr. Niall Holohan of Ireland and Mr. Jalal Samadi of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for their guidance and cooperation.

I should also like to express my gratitude to the members of the Fourth Committee for the cooperation they extended to me during the session. I also wish to thank the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Ozdinch Mustafa and his colleagues, Mr. Khan and Ms. Fritsche, and other Secretariat members of the Committee for their cooperation and assistance, which facilitated my tasks as Rapporteur of the Fourth Committee and for which I am grateful.

The Acting President: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee that are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The Acting President: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that, under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we shall proceed to take decisions in the same manner as in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, unless the Secretariat is notified to the contrary in advance. This means that where recorded votes were taken, we will do the same.

I should also hope that we may proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee.

Agenda item 82

Effects of atomic radiation

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/50/603)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 6 of its report (A/50/603).

The draft resolution was adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 50/26).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 82?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 83

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/50/604)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 9 of its report (A/50/604).

The Committee adopted the draft resolution. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 50/27).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 83?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 84

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/50/605)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the seven draft resolutions recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 29 of its report (A/50/605).

After all the votes have been taken, representatives will again have an opportunity to explain their vote.

We turn first to draft resolution A, entitled "Assistance to Palestine refugees".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel

Abstaining:

United States of America

Draft resolution A was adopted by 145 votes to 1, with 1 abstention (resolution 50/28 A).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Cape Verde, Grenada, Latvia, Mauritania, Mozambique, Norway and the United Republic of Tanzania informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: We now turn to draft resolution B, entitled "Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East".

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted draft resolution B without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution B was adopted (resolution 50/28 B).

The Acting President: Draft resolution C is entitled "Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

Draft resolution C was adopted by 147 votes to 2 (resolution 50/28 C).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Cape Verde, Grenada, Latvia, Mauritania, Mozambique, Norway and the United Republic of Tanzania informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: We turn next to draft resolution D, entitled "Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Israel

Draft resolution D was adopted by 150 votes to none, with 1 abstention (resolution 50/28 D).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Grenada, Latvia, Mauritania, Mozambique, Norway and the United Republic of Tanzania informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: Draft resolution E is entitled "Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Russian Federation

Draft resolution E was adopted by 146 votes to 2, with 3 abstentions (resolution 50/28 E).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Grenada, Mauritania, Mozambique, Norway and the United Republic of Tanzania advised the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: We come now to draft resolution F, "Revenues derived from Palestine refugees' properties".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of) Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Swaziland, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Draft resolution F was adopted by 98 votes to 2, with 48 abstentions (resolution 50/28 F).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Grenada, Mauritania, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania advised the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour; the delegation of Norway had intended to abstain.]

The Acting President: We now turn to draft resolution G, entitled "University of Jerusalem 'Al-Quds' for Palestine refugees".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Russian Federation, Swaziland

Draft resolution G was adopted by 148 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions (resolution 50/28 G).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Grenada, Mauritania, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania advised the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

Mr. Dlamini (Swaziland): My delegation had taken a position on draft resolution G, but that position is not reflected in the report. We would therefore like to indicate that we chose to abstain in the voting on draft resolution G.

The Acting President: The Secretariat will take note of the explanation of the representative of Swaziland. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 84?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 85

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/50/606)

The Acting President: I shall now call upon those representatives who wish to make statements in explanation of vote before the voting.

Mr. Tejera-París (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*): My delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolutions contained in the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. My delegation wishes to reiterate its full support for and appreciation of the peace process that has been ongoing since the Madrid Conference, in which the framework for negotiations was conceived, and the signing by the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements at Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993 and the subsequent implementation agreements, including the Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area, signed at Cairo on 4 May 1994, and the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, signed on 28 September 1995.

My Government commends the commitment the parties have shown to implement fully those agreements and continue to advance the peace process. We also wish to express the hope that the favourable development of the process will mean that at the next session it will no longer be necessary for such a draft resolution to be submitted to the General Assembly nor for the item to be considered in the Fourth Committee.

Mr. Dlamini (Swaziland): My delegation maintains its long-standing policy of advocating peaceful dialogue with regard to this subject. Any draft resolution on the Middle East question that ignores the present avenues will not receive the support of my delegation. We continue to urge the recognition of all the peace accords that have been entered into, and we urge all parties to still the noise of guns and turn to the mightiest of all instruments, namely, peaceful discussion and dialogue.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take action on the four draft resolutions recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 14 of its report (A/50/606).

We turn first to draft resolution A.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:
Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:
Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:
Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, the former Yugoslav

Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Vanuatu

Draft resolution A was adopted by 69 votes to 2, with 80 abstentions (resolution 50/29 A).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Mozambique informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: We turn now to draft resolution B. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nicaragua, Russian Federation

Draft resolution B was adopted by 147 votes to 2, with 4 abstentions (resolution 50/29 B).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Mozambique informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: We turn now to draft resolution C. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Argentina, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nicaragua, Panama, Russian Federation, Uruguay

Draft resolution C was adopted by 144 votes to 2, with 7 abstentions (resolution 50/29 C).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Mozambique informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: We turn finally to draft resolution D. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel

Abstaining:

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, El Salvador, Kenya, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nicaragua, Russian Federation, United States of America, Uruguay

Draft resolution D was adopted by 139 votes to 1, with 13 abstentions (resolution 50/29 D).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Mozambique informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 85?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 86

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/50/607)

The Acting President: The General Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 9 of its report (A/50/607).

The Committee adopted this draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 50/30).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 86?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 87

Questions relating to information

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/50/608)

The Acting President: The General Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 8 of its report (A/50/608), and on the draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 9 of the same document.

The Assembly will first take action on the two draft resolutions recommended in paragraph 8 of the report.

Draft resolution A is entitled "Information in the service of humanity".

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted draft resolution A without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution A was adopted (resolution 50/31 A).

The Acting President: Draft resolution B is entitled "United Nations public information policies and activities".

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted draft resolution B without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution B was adopted (resolution 50/31 B).

The Acting President: We turn now to the draft decision contained in paragraph 9 of the report.

The draft decision, entitled "Increase in the membership of the Committee on Information", was adopted by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The Acting President: May I take it that the Assembly wishes to conclude its consideration of agenda item 87?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 88

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/50/609)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 8 of its report (A/50/609).

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former

Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

France, Guinea-Bissau, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The draft resolution was adopted by 153 votes to none, with 4 abstentions (resolution 50/32).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Mozambique informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 88?

It was so decided.

Agenda items 89 and 18

Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/50/610)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 11 of its report (A/50/610) and on the draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 12 of the same document.

We turn first to the draft resolution, entitled "Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in territories under colonial domination".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yemen

Abstaining:

Argentina, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of)

The draft resolution was adopted by 93 votes to 51, with 3 abstentions (resolution 50/33).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Mozambique and Yemen informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: We now turn to the draft decision, entitled "Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Argentina, Belize, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of)

The draft decision was adopted by 95 votes to 48, with 4 abstentions.

[Subsequently, the delegation of Mozambique informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 89?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 18.

Agenda items 90 and 12 (*continued*)

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the Economic and Social Council (A/50/611)

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/50/611)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 8 of its report (A/50/611). The draft resolution is entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:
None

Abstaining:
Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The draft resolution was adopted by 107 votes to none, with 50 abstentions (resolution 50/34).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Mozambique advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 90?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: The Assembly has concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 12.

Agenda item 91

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/50/612)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 50/35).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 91?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 92

The situation in the occupied territories of Croatia

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/50/613)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 5 of its report. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 92?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 93

Question of the composition of the relevant organs of the United Nations

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/50/614)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 3 of its report. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 93?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 18 (*continued*)

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/50/602)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it three draft resolutions recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 29 of its report and a draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 30 of the same document.

The Assembly will now proceed to take decisions on the various recommendations of the Committee. After all the decisions have been taken, representatives will again have the opportunity to explain their vote.

We turn first to the three draft resolutions contained in paragraph 29 of the report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Question of Western Sahara".

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 50/36).

The Acting President: We now turn to draft resolution II, which is entitled "Question of New Caledonia".

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted draft resolution II without objection.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 50/37).

The Acting President: Draft resolution III is entitled "Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Georgia, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Argentina, Belgium, France

The draft resolution was adopted by 146 votes to 4, with 3 abstentions (resolution 50/38 A and B).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Mozambique informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: We turn now to the draft decision contained in paragraph 30 of the report.

The draft decision, entitled "Question of Gibraltar", was adopted by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The Acting President: We have concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 18.

The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

Agenda item 18 ***(continued)***

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/50/23 (Parts I-VII), A/AC.109/2012, 2013 and Corr.1 and Add.1, 2014, 2015 and Add.1, 2016 and Add.1, 2017 and Add.1, 2018, 2019 and Add.1, 2020 and Add.1, 2021-2023, 2025, 2028 and 2029 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General (A/50/504)

Draft resolutions (A/50/L.45, A/50/23, Part II, chapter III, para. 9)

The Acting President: The General Assembly will now continue its consideration of the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as a whole, under agenda item 18.

The Assembly has before it the report of the Special Committee (A/50/23) and a number of related documents, as listed in the *Journal*.

The Assembly also has before it a draft resolution that has been issued as document A/50/L.45 and a draft resolution that is contained in Part II, chapter III, paragraph 9 of the report of the Special Committee.

I now call on the Rapporteur of the Special Committee, Mr. Farouk Al-Attar of the Syrian Arab Republic, to introduce the Committee's report.

Mr. Al-Attar (Syrian Arab Republic), Rapporteur of the Special Committee: As the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, I have the honour to present to the General Assembly for its consideration the report of the Special Committee covering its work during 1995 (A/50/23).

The report, which relates, *inter alia*, to agenda item 18, is submitted in accordance with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 49/89 of 16 December 1994, on the implementation of the Declaration, by which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that had not yet exercised their right to self-determination and independence, and in particular to formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism.

At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, in adopting resolution 46/181, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and the Plan of Action, mandated the Special Committee to undertake a series of activities during the Decade, including the organization of similar activities in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately.

During the year the Special Committee was able to discharge the task entrusted to it by the Assembly and submit appropriate recommendations on all the items referred to it for consideration and report. Meeting between February and August and holding extensive consultations throughout the year among its members, and bearing in mind in particular the specific request addressed to it by the General Assembly in resolution 49/89, the Special Committee reviewed the implementation of the Declaration relating to the remaining Territories and formulated a series of recommendations with a view to enhancing the path of decolonization and facilitating the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the peoples in those Territories.

In addition, the Special Committee submitted recommendations specifically relating to activities of foreign, economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration, military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration, the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations and information transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter.

We note here that the Special Committee devoted considerable attention to the decolonization of the small island Territories. In that connection, the Special Committee was especially mindful of the fact that the United Nations visiting missions had provided effective means of assisting and ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples regarding their future status in those small Territories. Accordingly, it once again stressed the importance of dispatching such missions to colonial Territories in order to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration. In that respect, the Committee will continue to seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in ensuring that visiting missions to Territories under their administration can be undertaken.

On the question of the publicity to be given to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and as reflected in chapter III of its report, the Committee again reiterated the importance of effecting the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization as an instrument for furthering the purposes and principles of the Charter and the provisions of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. It also reiterated its importance for mobilizing all public opinion in support of the peoples of colonial Territories in their efforts to achieve self-determination, freedom and independence, bearing in mind the important role being played by non-governmental organizations in the decolonization process and in the dissemination of information on the situation on all the remaining small island Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee requested the departments concerned to continue their cooperation with those organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization issues and to provide support to the peoples of those Territories.

During the year, in the light of the constructive results achieved, and in keeping with related decisions of the General Assembly, the Committee decided to continue to maintain close contact with the organizations concerned, and to participate in the related conferences arranged by those organizations as well as by other United Nations bodies. The objective of those contacts was to facilitate the effective implementation of the decision of the various United Nations bodies and to foster cooperation between the specialized agencies and the regional organizations in their assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the respective regions.

I should like to draw members' attention to the proposals outlined in chapter I, section J, entitled "Future work", in order to enable the Committee to proceed with the effective discharge of the tasks that remain to be completed. The Special Committee recommended that the General Assembly renew its appeal to the administering Powers concerned to take all necessary steps for the implementation of the Declaration and the relevant United Nations resolutions in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In that connection, the Special Committee, bearing in mind the useful results achieved as a consequence of the active participation of the administering Powers in its work, recommended that the General Assembly again urge the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the Committee in the discharge of its mandate and in particular to participate actively in its work relating to the Territories under their respective administration.

The General Assembly may also wish to renew its appeal to all States and to specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system to comply with the various requests addressed to them by the United Nations in its resolutions on the question of decolonization.

On behalf of the Committee, I commend the report to the attention of the General Assembly. Before concluding, permit me to express to all the members of the Special Committee — and in particular to Ambassador Alimamy Pallo Bangura of Sierra Leone, the Acting Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Humberto Rivero Rosario of Cuba, the Vice-Chairman, Ambassador Utula Utuoc Samana of Papua New Guinea, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance and Mrs. Cecilia Mackenna of Chile, the Rapporteur of the Subcommittee — my deep gratitude for their cooperation and support. I also thank Mr. Abdur-Razzaque Khan, Mrs. Johanna Fritsche, and other associated members of the Secretariat for their assistance, which facilitated my task as Rapporteur. Allow me to pay special tribute to Mrs. Fritsche for her exemplary service to the United Nations, in particular to the Special Committee on decolonization, which she has served with great devotion for over 30 years. Now that she is retiring from the United Nations, I salute her for her dedication to the United Nations.

The Acting President: I call on the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee, His Excellency Mr. Alimamy Pallo Bangura of Sierra Leone, who will, in the course of his statement, introduce draft resolution A/50/L.45 and the draft resolution contained in Part II, chapter III, paragraph 9, of the report of the Special Committee (A/50/23).

Mr. Bangura (Sierra Leone): It is an honour for me to address the Assembly as Acting Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

At the outset, allow me to congratulate Mr. Diogo Freitas do Amaral on his election to preside over the fiftieth session of the General Assembly. My warm felicitations go also to his predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Amara Essy, on the efficient manner in which he conducted the affairs of the forty-ninth session.

A few weeks ago, at the start of the general debate in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) on the item on decolonization, I had the privilege of making a statement in my capacity as Acting Chairman. In that statement, I drew the attention of the members of the Committee to the mandate entrusted to the Special Committee since its establishment in 1961. I also emphasized the progress achieved since then by the Committee.

In the same vein, I should like first of all this morning to refer to the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which declares, *inter alia*, that:

> "1. The subjection of peoples to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation constitutes a denial of fundamental human rights, is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and is an impediment to the promotion of world peace and cooperation.
>
> "2. All peoples have the right to self-determination; by virtue of that right, they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.
>
> "3. Inadequacy of political, economic, social and educational preparedness should never serve as a pretext for delaying independence.
>
> "4. All armed action or repressive measures of all kinds directed against dependent peoples shall cease in order to enable them to exercise peacefully and freely their right to complete independence, and the integrity of their national territory shall be respected.
>
> "5. Immediate steps shall be taken in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories or all other Territories which have not yet attained independence, to transfer all powers to the peoples in those Territories, without any conditions or reservations in accordance with their freely expressed will and desire, without any distinction as to race, creed or colour, in order to enable them to enjoy complete independence and freedom." *(resolution 1514 (XV))*

The Declaration, which was adopted without a dissenting vote, was an expression of the world's desire to speed up the liberation of colonial peoples. It gave new hope of freedom and independence to millions still living under colonial rule.

A year after the adoption of the Declaration, the General Assembly established the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

The Special Committee was asked, *inter alia*, to continue to seek the most suitable ways for the speedy and total application of the Declaration to all Territories not yet independent; to propose specific measures for the complete application of the Declaration; to submit to the General Assembly a report with recommendations on all Territories to which the Declaration applied, which included Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to apprise the Security Council of any developments in those Territories which might threaten international peace and security.

The mandate of the Committee is examined every year by the General Assembly after it has reviewed the Committee's report.

Since its establishment, the Committee has carried out its mandate faithfully. Over the years, it has diligently and methodically pursued its task of reviewing the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, hearing petitioners, sending visiting missions to Territories, disseminating information on decolonization with a view to mobilizing public opinion, and making suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration in its reports to the General Assembly and the Security Council, as appropriate.

The Special Committee on decolonization has scored outstanding success in the promotion of the exercise by the peoples of the colonial Territories of their fundamental right to self-determination. However, contrary to the belief in certain quarters, this noble mission, as set forth clearly in its mandate, remains unaccomplished. The Committee, in tune with the times, has constantly reviewed its approaches and rationalized its method of work, appropriately adjusting to changing circumstances and improving its efficiency, keeping in step with the whirl of developments in international relations.

More recently, particularly with the end of the bipolar world, the Special Committee on decolonization has been noticeably practical, flexible and innovative in its work, as reflected in its recommendations to the General Assembly. However, the Committee has remained conscious of its responsibility and has never lost sight of the interests and welfare as well as the specific needs of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which have always been and remain paramount. The continuing process has gained renewed impetus since 1991, when the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and a plan of action aimed at ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free of colonialism.

While the General Assembly has repeatedly reaffirmed that such factors as area and population size or remoteness should not prevent the peoples of the Territories from exercising freely their right to self-determination and independence, it is not unaware of the fact that complete decolonization by the year 2000 will require innovative and realistic solutions which can be achieved only with the cooperation and active participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee. It is for this very reason that the Special Committee has spared no effort, as I have already indicated, in pursuing pragmatic and innovative approaches to the issues of decolonization, even as it adheres firmly to the time-honoured principles of the United Nations Charter and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

Paying close attention to the specific needs of each of the Territories, and recognizing the importance of the views of the people concerned and of the territorial Governments, the Special Committee has always encouraged their participation in its work and adopted constructive measures to facilitate that participation.

Acknowledging that the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, many of which are small island Territories, suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as their size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, lack of natural resources, and migration, particularly of people with high-level skills, the Special Committee has assiduously concentrated its efforts within the context of the International Decade on the search for specific measures which will promote the development of these Territories. To this end, the Special Committee continues to seek the cooperation of the administering Powers and the assistance of the specialized agencies of the United Nations.

Realizing the importance of achieving the goals of the United Nations in respect of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the Special Committee has sought unremittingly over the years to obtain the cooperation of the administering Powers. Now, in the context of the

International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism by the year 2000, such cooperation has gained added significance, particularly in view of the conviction that visiting missions are important in facilitating the work of the Committee as a means of obtaining first-hand information on colonial Territories and as a means of ascertaining the wishes of the people.

All this is a reaffirmation of the fact that the Special Committee is adjusting to changing circumstances in an ever changing world, and the Committee is very much aware that its task is not yet complete. In recognition of this unfinished task, the Special Committee will continue to endeavour to achieve self-determination for the peoples of the Territories, with the hope that the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories will soon be able to determine their status.

In this context, I should like to refer to draft resolution A/50/L.45 entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", sponsored by Algeria, Chile, Cuba, India, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, the Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago and Zimbabwe, and the draft resolution contained in document A/50/23, Part II, chapter III, paragraph 9, on the dissemination of information on decolonization.

In line with a practical and innovative approach to the work on decolonization, the texts of the draft resolutions have been somewhat modified from last year's texts in that, while not compromising the interests of the colonial peoples and of the Territories, some of the old usages have been changed to wording that will encourage everyone, including the administering Powers, to adopt the draft resolutions without a vote. I therefore commend the resolutions to the Assembly this morning.

In conclusion, let me join the Rapporteur in expressing my profound appreciation to all the members of the Special Committee, to the Secretariat and to everybody else.

Mr. Rai (Papua New Guinea): At the outset, I wish to compliment the Chairman of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, Ambassador Francis Muthaura, the Permanent Representative of Kenya, and his Bureau for the expeditious manner in which they have guided the work of the Committee to its efficient conclusion of the agenda items allocated to it by the General Assembly. I also take this opportunity to pay tribute to Ambassador Bangura, the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone who, in his capacity as Acting Chairman, has ably guided the work of the Committee of 24 during the year. My delegation also wishes to express its gratitude to the Secretariat for furnishing the Committee with the various reports before us and also to pay tribute to the many petitioners who have made presentations before the Committee.

My delegation fully subscribes to the statement by the Acting Chairman of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee on the ongoing concerns of the Committee in fulfilling its mandate.

Since the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, entitled, "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", which, *inter alia*, proclaimed the decade 1990- 2000 as the decade in which colonialism would be eradicated, my delegation, as an active member of the Committee of 24 and current Chair of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, has been concerned that, with the exception of New Zealand, the administering Power of Tokelau, all other administering Powers of these small Territories have noticeably absented themselves from the work of the Committee.

This lack of cooperation from the administering Powers was clearly demonstrated when substantial amendments were introduced in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee by some administering Powers with regard to resolutions emanating from the Special Committee, and in particular on the Committee's omnibus resolution A/AC.109/2035, without due consultation with the members of the Special Committee of 24. While my delegation welcomes all proposals to improve the work of the Special Committee, it must register its regret at the demonstrated inability of administering Powers to undertake the normal process of dialogue to reach common consensus at the appropriate Committee levels.

These actions demonstrate to my delegation that the bypassing of the Committee of 24, which has a Subcommittee dealing with the small Territories, is a clear indication of a lack of will on the part of administering Powers to collaborate with the Special Committee in order to reach common consensus and to expedite a successful conclusion of the responsibilities given to the Special Committee by the General Assembly.

Therefore, in that regard, my delegation urges all administering Powers to work closely with the Committee, given the fact that the current membership wishes to ensure that the Committee's work is progressive, innovative and responsive to the realities of the new international order in relation to special social, economic and political conditions pertaining to the Territories under consideration, and that we do so within the mandate of the Charter and the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

The onus is on the Assembly to fulfil its responsibilities under the Charter, in order that people everywhere will live in an environment freely determined by their own political will. To achieve that goal, this Assembly must fulfil its own resolutions to eradicate colonialism by the year 2000 and usher in a twenty-first-century world free from colonialism.

The world is watching the United Nations, whose one area of success is decolonization. Therefore, the United Nations must complete the process of decolonization by the year 2000.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item for this morning. We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/50/L.45 and the draft resolution contained in Part II, chapter III, paragraph 9, of the report (A/50/23) of the Special Committee.

I shall now call on a representative who wishes to make a statement in explanation of vote before the voting. May I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. DeCotiis (United States): The United States deeply regrets that the two draft resolutions on decolonization considered directly in plenary — on dissemination of information on decolonization and on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples — both perpetuate an approach to decolonization that has, quite simply, outlived its usefulness.

The United States has praised the success of the United Nations in bringing a full measure of self-government to hundreds of millions of people in scores of Territories throughout the world since the Second World War. We support fully the principles of decolonization that led to that success and take seriously our obligations under the United Nations Charter to promote to the utmost the well-being of the inhabitants of the Territories under United States administration.

Support for those principles, however, does not extend to support for resolutions that do not recognize the reality in Territories whose people, in exercising their right to self-determination and thereby achieving a full measure of self-government, have long since made clear their satisfaction with their relationship with the United States.

Recognition in the third preambular paragraph of the other draft resolution on decolonization of the need for

> "flexible, practical and innovative approaches towards reviewing the options of self-determination". (*A/50/23, Part II, chap. III, para. 9*)

is meaningless if it is not followed by action towards that end. We would certainly welcome such action and would note that the amendments that my delegation proposed to the draft resolution on 12 Territories in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee would have pointed us in the right direction. We are disappointed that the opportunity to move in that direction was lost but were heartened by the closeness of the vote, which we think signalled a recognition that such approaches not only are needed but should be adopted without further ado. Unfortunately, they have not been adopted in the draft resolutions before us today.

Regarding the draft resolution on the dissemination of information, the United States sees no need for the United Nations to provide information on the options of self-determination to people of Territories who have exercised their right to self-determination. This is especially true at a time when available United Nations resources are best directed at priority needs. In addition, when members of the Special Committee on decolonization themselves would never agree on which Territories should receive such information, we should not accept their assumption that the people of the United States Territories, for example, need that information.

The aspirations of the people in the United States Territories are clear. A series of plebiscites has given the people of Guam ample opportunity to voice their preference on political status. A Commission on Self-Determination was established in 1988 as the vehicle for the elected Government of Guam to use for discussing a proposal for commonwealth status with the United States federal Government. The Commission will ultimately put into effect legislatively the freely-expressed wishes of the people on this matter.

In American Samoa, a majority of the Territory's voters and elected officials have seen no reason to change their current political status as an unorganized, unincorporated Territory of the United States. The United States Government makes periodic inquiries through both the executive and legislative branches, offering to enter into discussions on political status or to hold a referendum. The message we have received in response through the years has been consistent: the people of American Samoa are satisfied with their relationship with the United States and see no reason to change it. And in 1993 the people of the United States Virgin Islands voted in a referendum to maintain the status quo in their relationship with the United States.

The United States remains committed to the principles of decolonization. We urge the members of this General Assembly, however, to consider with us whether those principles apply in the vast majority of Territories under consideration. We also urge the members to consider with us whether these draft resolutions accurately portray the situations in the Territories and whether we need to continue operating through the filter of a Special Committee set up more than 30 years ago under circumstances that simply no longer apply.

The proud history of United Nations success in the field of decolonization should no longer be marred by resolutions that ignore present-day realities. We would hope that the resolutions and decisions we consider at the fifty-first session of the General Assembly will set the record straight and allow us to focus our efforts on the real problems facing these United Nations.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/45/L.45, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine

Draft resolution A/50/L.45 was adopted by 130 votes to 4, with 26 abstentions (resolution 50/39).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Paraguay informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution contained in Part II, chapter III, paragraph 9 of the report of the Special Committee (A/50/23), entitled "Dissemination of information on decolonization".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The draft resolution was adopted by 133 votes to 3, with 25 abstentions (resolution 50/40).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Paraguay informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: The representative of the United Kingdom has asked to speak in explanation of vote on the draft resolutions just adopted. May I remind him that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Gomersall (United Kingdom): Once again, I regret that the delegation of the United Kingdom has found it necessary to vote against the resolutions on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/49/L.45) and on the dissemination of information on decolonization (A/50/23, Part II, chap. III, para. 9). This is despite improvements which we recognize in the latter text, in particular the welcome recognition that self-determination does not automatically equate with independence and that there are other options available. The recent referendum in Bermuda illustrates this well. The people there voted against independence and to maintain their existing links with the United Kingdom.

However, my delegation cannot accept that the request for the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information to publicize decolonization issues is an effective way to spend scarce resources when the Organization is facing a serious financial crisis.

In the resolution on the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples there remain unfortunately far too many examples of language that is out of touch with present-day reality. For example, we do not accept that the presence of military bases in our dependent Territories could in any way constitute an obstacle to the granting of independence or impede them from expressing their views on self-determination.

The two draft resolutions submitted to this General Assembly do nothing to advance the wishes and interests of the indigenous people of the remaining dependent Territories, which remain the foundation of the British Government's policies.

More generally, my delegation recognizes that the United Nations has a positive and cherished record in the area of decolonization, achieved during its first 50 years, and that the principles upheld by this Organization have an enduring validity. We pay tribute to those who have worked successfully and with goodwill in this field, and we shall continue to fulfil our obligations with regard to the situation in the United Kingdom's dependent Territories.

However, reflecting on all the activities and debates on decolonization issues in the Committee of 24 and in the Fourth Committee, which have culminated in the adoption of the clutch of resolutions this morning, my delegation believes that the cost and effort devoted to these issues are disproportionate to the scale of the real remaining problems. We believe that the United Nations has more important goals, affecting vastly greater numbers of the world's population, which merit higher priority.

We further believe that the activities and structure of the General Assembly should reflect the future priorities of the United Nations, and not those of the past, as well as a reasonable regard for the sensible use of resources. We shall therefore work, with others, as appropriate occasions arise, for changes that will better reflect the future priorities of our Organization, including those mentioned by the Heads of State and Government during this fiftieth session, priorities among which decolonization received hardly a mention.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote after the vote. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 18 as a whole?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 21

University for Peace

Draft resolution (A/50/L.42)

The Acting President: I call on the representative of Costa Rica to introduce draft resolution A/50/L.42.

Mrs. Castro de Barish (Costa Rica) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Costa Rica is appearing before the General Assembly at its fiftieth session pursuant to resolution 48/9 of 25 October 1993. We are pleased to have the opportunity to report on events relating to the University for Peace, and on its achievements, during the period 1993 to 1995, as well as on its goals and efforts for world peace in the period leading up to the new millennium.

We are all very much aware of the profound changes occurring on the international scene and of the course being taken by the international community to build a new international order, in which interdependence and integration are regarded as essential foundations of the United Nations system. In this climate of transition, the University for Peace is trying, through its academic work and in cooperation with peoples and Governments, to identify viable alternative ways of contributing to the promotion of the new culture of peace, which was initiated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). There is no doubt that this will have a favourable effect on the quality of life, human development and sustainable development. Its promotion responds to the most worthy and realistic imperative of modern times: "disarming the minds" of men and women at all stages of life — from infancy to old age — in order to achieve true peace.

Within the "Education for peace" framework, projects have been initiated to reduce tension and to promote and enhance understanding, tolerance and solidarity. The University for Peace will from now on strengthen and expand the programmes that it has been promoting since its establishment, and it will develop them with new approaches in the search for solutions to new situations.

An important event for the University occurred during the period under review, when in April 1994 the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in consultation with the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Federico Mayor Zaragoza, named the new Council — the University's highest authority — in accordance with article 6 of the University's Charter. The Council held its ninth regular meeting on 3 October 1994.

The members of the Council are distinguished personalities who have made important contributions, in the academic, political and economic fields, to world peace. They were chosen on a strict basis of wide geographical, cultural and intellectual distribution.

The new Council includes: Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, former Secretary-General of the United Nations; Mr. Cyrus Vance, former Secretary of State of the United States; Mr. Enrique Iglesias, President of the Inter-American Development Bank; Mr. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany; Mr. Alfonso Escamez, former President of the Central Bank of Spain; Mr. Thierry de Montbrial, Director of the French Institute of International Relations; Mrs. Dharma Kumar, United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP) Adviser in India; Mrs. Grace Alele Williams, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Benin, Nigeria; Mr. Francis Deng, Director of the Brookings Institute; and Mr. George Abi-Saab, Director of the Geneva Institute for Advanced International Studies. The other Council members are: Mr. Rodrigo Carazo, former President of Costa Rica; Mr. Jaime Montalvo, former Rector of the University; Mr. Nitin Desai, representing the United Nations Secretary-General; Mr. Dimitrio Chitoran, representing the Director-General of UNESCO; Mr. Marcel Boisard, Acting Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research; and Mr. Jacques Fomerand, representing the United Nations University.

At its ninth regular meeting, the recently constituted Council appointed Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar as its new Chairman; Mr. Edwin Leon as its Vice-Chairman; and the Deputy Rector, Dr. Francisco Barahona, as the Acting Rector. At that meeting, guidelines for the University's operation were considered, new programmes to promote its work were adopted and important decisions were taken on consolidating the institution and on its future progress.

In the period under review the University for Peace provided two academic training projects at the postgraduate, master's, level — one in cooperation, development and peace and another in ecology and peace. They were attended by students of international relations from all five continents — 46 students from 23 countries.

Some specialized programmes were carried out on social-labour concertation, with emphasis on Central America. The first postgraduate specialist course in labour relations and human resources ended on 15 October 1995; developed by the Institute for Labour Relations, it was attended by 20 Central American students representing trade unions, Governments and employers — the tripartite sector.

There was also an international programme of indigenous studies in the context of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. That programme, which enjoyed special support, was begun in January 1994 in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Federated College of Canada; 74 students from 19 countries took part.

Academic work in recent years has been intense. Master's programmes and special courses have been offered in natural resources, human rights, education for peace, the peaceful resolution of disputes, labour relations, sustainable development, peacemaking processes and the culture of peace and democratization, with some 2,500 participants from 36 countries.

In commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations the University carried out a programme of activities in 1995, in conjunction with the Costa Rican Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations. Among the academic events at the University were workshops on the International Day of Peace, the role of international agencies in Costa Rica and a study on tolerance and indigenous peoples. In the social sphere, a gala concert was held commemorating the fiftieth anniversary.

The University's Gandhi Centre for audiovisual communications prepared documentaries and disseminated information on the United Nations system. The Gandhi Centre prepares and monitors plans for products and programmes to achieve the University's goals. In recent years the Gandhi Centre has increased and intensified its work with United Nations specialized agencies, such as UNESCO, UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Recently it was contracted by the Programme for a Culture of Peace and Democracy in Central America to prepare videos and documentaries.

In the past five years information programmes have been developed for "third-age" visitors, who have been given lectures related to the academic purposes of the University. Principal responsibility for this initiative has been undertaken by the Costa Rican Foundation of Friends of the University for Peace, which has provided partial financial support to the University. Some 3,000 persons participated in this programme during the period under consideration.

I turn to the University's infrastructure. The University for Peace is situated in property covering 302 hectares — 700 acres — that it owns. Some 200 hectares covered with unspoilt woodland are used for scientific research and environmental education. The facilities of the University for Peace have been built on the remaining land. In 1993-1994, 16 new lecture halls able to accommodate 500 students were built, being added to the six already in existence. A dormitory unit for 20 persons has also been built, as well as a computer room with 24 terminals and plenty of room for expansion.

Although I would like to speak in greater detail about the achievements of the University for Peace, I am aware that statements must be of a reasonable length.

Therefore, I now turn to the draft resolution in document A/50/L.42, "University for Peace", which I am pleased to submit on behalf of my own country, fraternal countries of Central America — El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama — and the other co-sponsors: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Cape Verde, Cambodia, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Chile, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Paraguay, Peru, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Suriname, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uruguay and Costa Rica, which have now been joined by Burundi and the Russian Federation.

The draft resolution is similar to resolution 48/9 of 25 October 1993. However, in view of the considerable changes that have taken place on the international scene, we have included some new concepts reflecting the work of the University for Peace.

We need to amend the first preambular paragraph of the English text. The Spanish text correctly reads, at the end of that paragraph, after the words "*promoción universal*",

> "dentro del sistema de la Universidad de las Naciones Unidas".

The English text reads:

> "the universal promotion thereof within the United Nations system".

That is incorrect; "the" should be replaced by "its" and "thereof" should be deleted. The end of the paragraph should now read:

> "its universal promotion within the system of the United Nations University".

The second and third preambular paragraphs recall the chronology of the resolutions establishing the University for Peace in conformity with the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace.

The fourth preambular paragraph recognizes the financial limitations which have impeded the full development of the activities and programmes necessary for carrying out its important mandate.

The fifth preambular paragraph recognizes the importance of the assistance given to the University during the period 1993-1995 by Canada, Costa Rica, the Netherlands and Spain, as well as the contributions by foundations and non-governmental organizations.

The sixth preambular paragraph notes that in 1991 the Secretary-General, with the assistance of UNDP, established a Trust Fund for Peace consisting of voluntary contributions in order to provide the University with the means necessary to extend its sphere of activity to the rest of the world and to take full advantage of its potential capacity for education, research and support of the United Nations.

The seventh preambular paragraph, which is new, notes that the University has placed special emphasis, in the context of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace", on the areas of conflict prevention, the maintenance and consolidation of peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Although the University for Peace is wholly autonomous in its work and planning, the Government of Costa Rica has often lent its support to the Secretary-General's Agenda for Peace.

In the eighth preambular paragraph, which is also new, we point out the importance of education for peace to help foster respect for all the values inherent in peace and universal coexistence among human beings, which the University for Peace has been doing and continues to do in the realm of human relations — relations between all those who take part in its programmes, who are students of peace.

The ninth preambular paragraph, another new paragraph, is very significant; it refers to the efforts made by UNESCO for the development and promotion of a new culture of peace. We have recognized this in other forums, for education and the culture of peace are, and will continue to be, most important factors in training designed to promote peace — true peace — in the world.

With apologies to the other sponsors for not having had the opportunity to consult them in advance, I wish now to read out a new paragraph for the draft resolution, which should appear as the tenth preambular paragraph:

> "*Noting* likewise the research activities for international peace and security being carried out by the United Nations University".

This paragraph thus recognizes those important efforts of the United Nations University.

By the eleventh preambular paragraph, as newly numbered, the Assembly recalls that Turkey acceded to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace on 27 November 1995, for which we are deeply grateful. We urge other States to consider doing the same.

By the twelfth preambular paragraph the General Assembly recalls that in its resolution 46/11 it decided to include in the agenda of its forty-eighth session and biennially thereafter an item entitled "University for Peace"; it is important to recall this.

I have a number of revisions to the operative part of the draft resolution; these are not complicated, but, once again, I apologize to the other sponsors for having been unable to consult them in time, as these changes were proposed only yesterday. We agreed to them in a spirit of conciliation with a view to achieving consensus on the text.

There are no changes to operative paragraph 1, which makes reference to an important matter of which I spoke some moments ago, and by which the Assembly reiterates its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the establishment of the new Council of the University for Peace, which held its ninth regular meeting on 30 October 1994.

I shall now read out a revised text of paragraph 2, reflecting changes made to gain universal support for the draft resolution:

> "*Requests* the Secretary-General to consider ways of strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the University for Peace and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session".

Accordingly, paragraph 5, which would have requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of this draft resolution, should be deleted.

By paragraph 3, the Assembly invites Member States, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental bodies as well as interested individuals and organizations to contribute directly to the Trust Fund for Peace and to the budget of the University. As members can see, this draft resolution has no financial implications for the budget of the United Nations, as these contributions would be purely voluntary.

In paragraph 4 the General Assembly invites Member States to accede to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace, thus demonstrating their support of a global institution for peace studies whose mandate is the promotion of a global culture of peace.

With the deletion of the current paragraph 5, paragraph 6 will be renumbered as paragraph 5; by this paragraph the Assembly decides to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "University for Peace".

On behalf of the nearly 50 other sponsors of this draft resolution, my delegation urges the General Assembly to adopt it without a vote, and indeed, if possible, by consensus. As we have had to revise the draft resolution, a new text will soon be issued; it is our understanding that the General Assembly will take action on the revised draft resolution on Friday, 8 December.

Mr. Álvarez (Uruguay) (*interpretation from Spanish*): My delegation welcomes this new draft resolution on the University for Peace.

In the 15 years since its establishment, the University has pursued and enriched its founding ideals: the achievement of the supreme value of peace through education, with a humanistic outlook and in conformity with the principles of the United Nations. The University's activities since 1980 have been marked by a firm commitment to those principles and by high academic standards in all the areas in which it has given courses and seminars. Those standards have been achieved thanks to cooperation from the many Member States and non-governmental organizations that have contributed to these important activities.

I should like to highlight the generous contribution of Costa Rica, which, as host to the University, provides the infrastructure it needs. Costa Rica, a peace-loving and profoundly pacifist country, is the ideal location for such an institution.

Uruguay acceded to the founding Charter of the University and to the International Agreement on its establishment in 1985, and has been a member of the institution since that year, upon parliamentary ratification of the Agreement. Uruguay's relationship with the

University has been a productive one, in both academic and institutional terms.

My delegation is pleased that Turkey acceded to the International Agreement in 1995, and reiterates its invitation to other Member States to do likewise as soon as possible.

The delegation of Uruguay also supports the request to the Secretary-General to consider ways of strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the University for Peace, which is an institution unlike any other in the United Nations system. It has made important contributions in the areas of conflict prevention, the maintenance and consolidation of peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Such an institution deserves ever increasing support from the Organization in the framework of activities for peace and of the Secretary-General's Agenda for Peace.

As a sponsor of draft resolution A/50/L.42, my delegation hopes that the General Assembly will adopt it by consensus.

Mr. Larrain (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): It is a privilege for the Government of Chile to co-sponsor the draft resolution supporting the activities of the University for Peace.

My country shares the objective of promoting an international centre for post-university education, research and the dissemination of knowledge relating to training and education for peace.

Chile appreciates the work done by the University for Peace in conflict prevention, the maintenance and consolidation of peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes. It is fundamental work not only in supporting the most characteristic work of the United Nations, but also in promoting the peace and security of the human person. Promoting a culture of peace is essential today, since on it depend respect for human rights and peaceful coexistence among peoples.

World events since the end of ideological confrontation, characterized by the emergence of intra-State conflicts, emphasize the urgent need to deal with the causes of conflicts and international crises and to promote the values of peace. Because justice, development and peace form an indivisible structure, Governments, institutions and individuals must redouble their efforts in this regard.

The University for Peace can make a tremendous contribution to the international community. Its academic nature makes it possible to find imaginative ways to promote peaceful coexistence among individuals and nations. Peace and security is a permanent objective, and efforts to achieve it must be stepped up in the short and long term.

The University for Peace requires more human and financial resources; the cause of peace demands that it receive them.

Mr. Izquierdo (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The delegation of Ecuador would like to add its voice to the expressions of support for the draft resolution contained in document A/50/L.42, as orally revised, entitled "University for Peace". This centre for higher education, which was established by the General Assembly in 1980, upon the initiative of Costa Rica, deserves the full support of the international community. The University's activities have been meaningful in organizing education for peace, with the emphasis on research, the promotion of human rights, protection of the environment, utilization of natural resources and the promotion of international cooperation and development.

This academic institution must therefore be universal and must increase its educational and research capabilities, thus making it possible to stimulate United Nations activities to promote peace throughout the world, particularly in conflict prevention and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Ecuador, as a co-sponsor of the draft resolution, had supported the request to the Secretary-General to consider the establishment of a cooperation agreement between the United Nations and the University for Peace in order to consolidate the integration of the University within the United Nations system. This would provide an opportunity for more communication and cooperation between the relevant bodies of the United Nations on topics relating to international relations, such as research and the promotion of human rights.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

I should like to inform Members that a revised draft resolution will be issued tomorrow, and action on the revised draft resolution will be taken on Friday, 8 December, in the morning, as the first item.

Programme of work

The Acting President: I should like to inform members that tomorrow, 7 December 1995, in the afternoon, as the first item the General Assembly will take action on draft resolution A/50/L.17/Rev.1, submitted under agenda item 45, "The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development".

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.

United Nations A/50/PV.83

General Assembly
Fiftieth Session

Official Records

83rd plenary meeting
Thursday, 7 December 1995, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Freitas do Amaral . . . . (Portugal)

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Agenda item 161

Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development

Report of the Secretary-General (A/50/670)

The President: I should like to inform the Assembly that the Permanent Representative of New Zealand, on behalf of the Western European and Other States, in a letter dated 5 December 1995, requests that the General Assembly hear in plenary meeting a statement by the Observer of the Holy See during the debate on agenda item 161.

Members will recall that in accordance with established practice of the General Assembly, Observer non-Member States may normally make statements only in the Main Committees. However, taking into account the importance attached to the issues under discussion, it is proposed that the General Assembly should take a decision on that request.

May I take it that there is no objection to the proposal to hear the Observer of the Holy See in the course of the debate on agenda item 161?

It was so decided.

Mr. Laclaustra (Spain) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Romania and the Slovak Republic associate themselves with this statement.

Last March, in Copenhagen, Heads of State and Government gathered

> "to recognize the significance of social development and human well-being for all and to give to these goals the highest priority both now and into the twenty-first century." *(A/CONF.166/9, Chap. I, annex I, para. 1)*

The World Summit for Social Development displayed a common political commitment to place people at the centre of development, which the European Union supports strongly.

The outcome of the World Summit for Social Development represents a political commitment, at the highest level, to pursue integrated social-development strategies. In this regard, the eradication of poverty and the promotion of full employment, social integration, and an environment conducive to social development are priority goals. These issues affect all countries, both developed and developing.

A common agreement was reached in Copenhagen aimed at creating an economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment, based on democracy, full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, equality between men and women, the elimination of all forms of discrimination, solidarity, transparent and accountable

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one month of the date of the meeting*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, Room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

governance and administration, and the encouragement of partnership with free and representative organizations of civil society.

Furthermore, the Fourth World Conference on Women, held recently in Beijing, continued the Copenhagen process and provided the necessary framework for integrating gender perspectives in all the strategies to be developed for implementing the Programme of Action adopted at the Summit.

We gather again today in the General Assembly, at a time when the Organization is involved in an important reform process, to welcome and strongly endorse the result of the World Summit for Social Development, to continue our exchange of views about questions related to its follow-up and to adopt the necessary decisions to support the effective implementation of the commitments made at the Summit.

At the Summit it was rightly emphasized that an integrated approach to social development is necessary for implementing the Summit's Programme of Action at the national level, and this integrated approach should also be taken into account in its follow-up.

The implementation of the Programme of Action is to take place primarily at the national level and is primarily the responsibility of Governments. In Copenhagen, all countries committed themselves at the highest political level to formulate or strengthen, by 1996, national strategies for social development. In order to do so, international cooperation is necessary, particularly through technical assistance in the formulation of these strategies, to evaluate at the national level progress made in implementing the outcome of the Summit and to develop more refined concepts and programmes for the collection and dissemination of statistics and indicators of social development. The relevant United Nations programmes and agencies, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies, can play an important role in supporting the implementation of these national strategies for social development in the field.

The Summit placed special emphasis on the involvement of civil society in the implementation of and follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action of the Summit on the basis of a spirit of partnership and cooperation. The Summit also stressed the need for strengthening the organizations of civil society in order to enable them to participate constructively in the making, implementation and evaluation of policies. We attach special importance to this matter and appeal to Governments to maintain and enhance effective partnership with the main actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the social factions.

Implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action will require the mobilization of financial resources at the national and international level. Ways and means of effectively mobilizing financial resources for social development, in both the public and private sectors, and providing a more suitable orientation of development assistance and cooperation towards this goal need to be fully explored. Efforts aimed at substantially reducing the debt burden of the poorest and most heavily indebted countries and at ensuring that their structural-adjustment programmes include social development goals need to be pursued.

As stated in the Programme of Action, the Economic and Social Council should consider new and innovative ideas for generating funds for the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and should offer useful suggestions to that end.

The Programme of Action of the Social Summit recalled — and the European Union reaffirmed its commitment in this regard — the need to strive for the fulfilment of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product for overall official development assistance, as soon as possible. In this context, special priority should be given to Africa, the least developed countries and other low-income countries. The Programme of Action also identified the need for recipient countries to strengthen their national coordination mechanisms for international cooperation in the field of social development and to ensure the effective use of international assistance. Furthermore, the Programme of Action requests interested developed and developing countries to allocate an average of 20 per cent of official development assistance and 20 per cent of their national budgets, respectively, to basic social programmes.

In this connection, we welcome the Norwegian proposal to host in 1996 a meeting of interested countries and representatives of relevant international institutions to consider how the developed and developing countries can, in partnership, apply operationally the 20/20 initiative and discuss the definition of "basic social services".

International financial institutions would also contribute to the mobilization of resources by integrating social-development goals in their policies, programmes and operations. In this respect, we hope that the international financial institutions will be able to provide information to the Economic and Social Council on measures taken in connection with the recommendations of the World Summit. In addition, closer cooperation, particularly in the field, is necessary between the United Nations development system and the international financial institutions, in order to promote greater complementarity.

In this regard, the Secretary-General should consider the possibility of holding meetings with the heads of the Bretton Woods institutions, United Nations funds and programmes, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and of other relevant agencies for the purpose of considering the implementation of the results of the Social Summit.

Within the United Nations system, as stated in the Copenhagen Programme of Action:

> "A framework for international cooperation must be developed in the context of the agenda for development in order to ensure the integrated and comprehensive implementation, follow-up and assessment of the outcome of the Summit, together with the results of other recent and planned United Nations Conferences related to social development" *(A/CONF.166/9, chap. I, annex I, para. 94)*

At the intergovernmental level, special consideration should be given to the key functions of the General Assembly, as the principal policy-making organ on matters relating to the follow-up to the Summit, and of the Economic and Social Council, in providing general guidelines and taking responsibility for system-wide United Nations coordination in activities related to the Summit. In this effort, the Commission for Social Development should play a central role in assisting the Economic and Social Council in its coordinating functions.

To this end, the Economic and Social Council, on the basis of a proposal made by the Commission, should establish a multi-year programme of work for the Commission until the year 2000. This programme should take into account the Summit's comprehensive and integrated approach to social development and should identify fundamental topics of the core issues of the Programme of Action. We recall in this connection that the European Union has already presented to the Economic and Social Council a proposal for a multi-year programme of work for the Commission for Social Development. This proposal is attached to the copies of this statement that have been distributed.

In this respect, the support and participation of the main actors of civil society is essential. Mechanisms are therefore needed to promote, support and make possible the effective participation of civil society in the work of the Commission for Social Development.

For the Social Summit to be effective, we consider that an improved United Nations reporting system is crucial. To that end, and on the basis, *inter alia*, of the recommendations of the Commission for Social Development, the Economic and Social Council should review the reporting system in the area of social development with a view to establishing a coherent and integrated system that would result in clear policy recommendations for Governments and international actors.

The European Union also considers it especially important that all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system should be involved in the follow-up to the Social Summit and encourages specialized agencies and relevant organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen and adjust their activities, programmes and medium-term strategies to take into account the follow-up to the Summit. The ILO, because of its mandate, tripartite structure and experience, has a special role to play in the field of employment and social development. The United Nations Development Programme, because of its experience in the field of poverty, also has a special role to play in promoting efforts of the United Nations system to strengthen institutional capacities and in supporting the coordination of social-development programmes through the resident-coordinator system.

It is necessary for the relevant intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations to receive, through the Secretary-General, full information on a regular basis on the work undertaken by inter-agency mechanisms for the follow-up to the Summit.

The Copenhagen Programme of Action invites the Administrative Committee on Coordination to bring system-wide coordination issues to the attention of the Economic and Social Council and to make recommendations thereon. In this context, we note with satisfaction the establishment of the new task forces to address the enabling environment for social and economic development, employment and sustainable livelihoods and the provision of basic social services for all.

The involvement of the Bretton Woods institutions in the follow-up to the Social Summit and their enhanced cooperation with the relevant parts of the United Nations system are essential. The role of the World Bank as lead agency for the task force on the enabling environment for social and economic development certainly augurs well for movement in that direction.

We committed ourselves in Copenhagen to cooperation for social development at all levels in a spirit of partnership. To this end, regional follow-up to pursue such mechanisms and monitor progress is necessary. In this context, we welcome the Austrian initiative, at the Copenhagen Summit, to host a first regional follow-up meeting in 1997. Furthermore, within the European Union, a meeting of experts was held in Madrid in late November, called "After Copenhagen: actions to combat exclusion". That meeting constitutes an important starting-point for follow-up activities both at the national level and within the framework of the European Union.

When we talk in the General Assembly of promoting employment, strengthening social integration or reducing poverty, we do not mean only in terms of human rights and social justice, but also, in a broad sense, of solidarity. Solidarity has many dimensions: within each country, between different social groups, between men and women and between generations; and at a global level, between members of the international community. Solidarity goes beyond actions by Governments and politicians and requires the active participation of all members of society. On the basis of this concept of solidarity, the European Union seeks to strike a balance between economic growth and social policy. In maintaining this balance that integrates social and economic policies while ensuring an adequate level of social protection, the creation of employment will be our top priority.

The political momentum generated by the World Summit for Social Development should be maintained. The European Union is firmly committed to that goal and we will support initiatives aimed at the full implementation of the Programme for Action adopted in Copenhagen and its follow-up.

The President: I should like to propose that the list of speakers in the debate on this item be closed today at 12 noon.

It was so decided.

I therefore request those representatives wishing to participate in the debate to inscribe their names on the list of speakers as soon as possible.

Mr. Nielson (Denmark): The Social Summit represented a milestone in the history of international cooperation. It created an unprecedented platform for global social development. It confirmed that all people have a right to a decent life.

Economic activities, through which individuals express their initiative and creativity and which enhance the wealth of communities, are a fundamental basis for social progress. But social progress will not be realized simply through the free interaction of market forces. Public policies are necessary to correct market failures, to complement market mechanisms, to maintain social stability and to create a national and international economic environment that promotes sustainable growth on a global scale. Such growth should promote equity and social justice, tolerance, responsibility and involvement. These principles constitute the backbone of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action. They confirm that a truly global conscience is now emerging.

The implementation of the recommendations is the immediate and direct responsibility of national Governments. In shouldering their task, national Governments will need the full support of many different actors inside and outside their national borders. The United Nations system bears a particular responsibility in providing this support. We need improved and strengthened cooperation for social development in a spirit of partnership, through the United Nations and other multilateral institutions.

This will require effectiveness in development work, and it will require strong coordination of the overall implementation of the Declaration and the Programme of Action. Effectiveness and coordination are the dual challenges for the United Nations system. But implementation of the Programme of Action, especially in Africa and in the least developed countries, will also require additional financial resources.

The follow-up process must be innovative and concrete and must lead to practical results. Attaining the goals identified at the Summit cuts across all sectors and policy areas. Intellectual cross-fertilization and stimulation to the benefit of future discussions on social development issues are needed. This stimulation should preferably be independent of the United Nations system but should also, naturally, be complementary to United Nations efforts.

Such a stimulation process should not in any way interfere with intergovernmental negotiations, nor with the ongoing work of international organizations. It should fully respect such measures for an integrated and comprehensive follow-up as the General Assembly might decide on. The independent process should be seen exclusively as a support for the national and intergovernmental implementation process.

To provide a firm structure for the process, one approach would be to establish an independent forum on social development. We have consulted several other countries on this idea. I wish to thank those Member States that have expressed their support. From the outset, we made it clear that to serve its purpose, the forum would need consensus in terms of political backing, as well as broad support in terms of financing its activities. From the consultations we have had, I have to draw the conclusion that these preconditions will not be met. As a consequence, I do not think it appropriate to pursue the idea as originally developed. On the other hand, we must not let ourselves be limited by what seems possible. We have to do what is necessary. Therefore, we are considering alternative approaches and ideas with a view to attaining the goals intended by establishing the forum.

As one example, Denmark has initiated a research project on the possibilities of international statistical follow-up to the Programme of Action adopted in Copenhagen. The report analyzes the Programme of Action with a view to defining the exact areas where social development is intended. In addition, the report describes already available statistics and their utility.

The report complements the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Statistical Commission, which will analyse and define data gaps in available statistics. The project will also supplement the efforts of the Economic and Social Council concerning a general analysis of the decisions taken at the six world conferences held since 1990, including the Social Summit.

The current data map of the world has many white and grey spots. In areas such as disability, morbidity, causes of death, poverty, underemployment, employment in the informal sector, homelessness and social security, statistics are either non-existent or not up to date, or else their coverage and quality are low. The report I have mentioned is available to interested delegates.

In addition to the project just mentioned, it is Denmark's intention to support multilateral efforts and the efforts of our development partners to enhance the statistical foundation for assessing future social progress. It is also our intention, in line with the thinking behind the forum, to convene in Copenhagen international high-quality seminars on selected social development issues, directly aimed at maintaining the spirit of political commitment and action that prevailed in Copenhagen. To ensure the dynamics and continuity of the seminars, we will set up a small secretariat to prepare them.

The representative of Spain, on behalf of the European Union, has already commented on the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Summit. It goes without saying that I fully associate myself with his statement.

The Summit placed firmly on the international agenda a number of key issues and problems that had been considered until then to be internal national concerns. This breakthrough created an exceptional opportunity to combine strategies that are both national and international in scope in our pursuit of social development. It is the responsibility of the General Assembly to ensure that the vision of our Heads of State and Government comes true. We must face the challenge with determination and imagination. It is our responsibility to ensure that the Copenhagen spirit continues and develops into decisive action on all fronts.

Mr. Tello (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action, adopted at the World Summit for Social Development in March this year in Denmark, clearly demonstrated the global nature of old and new social challenges. In developed and developing countries alike, situations that engender social tensions continue to arise. Millions of people live in poverty; the number of unemployed is on the rise; and the problem of marginalized sectors of society will not go away.

The World Summit for Social Development marked the beginning of a new stage in social development. The documents adopted at the end of the Summit bear witness to the international community's awareness of the need to adopt urgent measures to solve the world's social problems. These documents identify strategies, policies and priority measures to be adopted at the national, regional and international levels in order to meet the aspirations of all countries in the sphere of social development and to develop an international awareness of the importance of balancing economic efficiency with social justice. They clearly affirm that the primary responsibility for progress in social development must be assumed at the national level. They also recognize the necessity of international cooperation in support of national policies.

The actions and decisions we adopt to implement the commitments we undertook in Copenhagen must reflect the global approach of the Declaration and Programme of Action. This approach integrates social questions and economic ones and addresses social development from the political and cultural perspective, placing it at the centre of national priorities and the international agenda. The approach recognizes that there is a direct relation between the promotion of equal opportunity, economic growth and the international economic context. It stresses that only a favourable economic environment will establish conditions conducive to addressing social problems. Undoubtedly, equality requires resource-generating growth together with a minimum of socio-political stability.

The Copenhagen Summit made it clear that the State is responsible not only for generating economic development but also for promoting social justice. In this context, it was recognized that the participation and mobilization of civil society, rooted in broad collective solidarity, are essential. We are convinced that the participation of civil society is indispensable for ensuring the efficacy of any social development policy.

The United Nations must lend significant support to countries' efforts to translate the outcome of the Summit into concrete national policies and programmes. The efforts made to date to ensure adequate coordination of action between the bodies of the system that are concerned will certainly improve the effectiveness of their work.

Through the various competent bodies of the Organization — the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development — it will be important to monitor carefully the implementation of the commitments of the Summit and to define the direction of policies in this area. The sharing of national experiences will facilitate the identification of specific areas in which international cooperation needs to be strengthened. The documentation which the Secretariat submits for consideration to the competent organs must contain specific suggestions, based on a thorough analysis of actions undertaken at all levels, if the follow-up to the Summit is to be effective. We are aware that the part of the Secretariat entrusted with the responsibility of preparing the documents will need to be strengthened.

In his report, the Secretary-General asserts that regional activities to implement the outcome of the Summit are of particular importance. In this context, I wish to inform the Assembly that the Ministers in charge of social development policies of the States members of the Rio Group met in Buenos Aires last May and adopted a declaration on follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development. The commitments assumed by our Governments on that occasion will give decisive momentum to our action in this area.

We completely agree with the statement in the Secretary-General's report that the follow-up to and implementation of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the Social Summit are particularly challenging owing to the complex and interconnected nature of the issues and the commitments made. We must therefore work systematically towards the attainment of the goals that we have set. On this occasion I should like to reiterate the firm support of the Government of Mexico for progress in the implementation of the commitments undertaken at the Summit for Social Development. In this way we shall achieve the objectives that gave rise to our Organization.

Mr. Somavía (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Today the General Assembly is dealing with the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. We have reason for satisfaction as we undertake the task of ensuring that the United Nations system contributes to the fulfilment of the commitments undertaken there.

For the first time in the history of mankind, Heads of State and Government met to decide, forcefully and clearly, that the main responsibility in all our societies is to improve the living standards of people, particularly the dispossessed and the excluded. This task, which is primarily national in character, requires a revitalized framework for international cooperation and participation by civil society.

This great international consensus is a political and ethical response to the uncertainties and insecurities which we are experiencing in this new world of post-cold-war globalization.

The message of the Social Summit is very simple: if we want to have stable societies, we need more equity and greater respect for the environment. A mere linear projection of the present trends in the growth of poverty, unemployment and social polarization indicates that there will be further social tension and unrest in spite of the considerable achievements in many countries. The logic of the prevailing economic system accentuates the processes of social exclusion.

For many people it is a cruel irony to talk about democracy, human rights and the expansion of markets when they do not see any real improvement in their living conditions. On the contrary, the Social Summit is a cry of alarm. It is a political vision of a world at peace with itself, a possible and morally necessary ideal. The Summit has given us a modern vision of how the status quo might be changed on the basis of the following principles.

First, there is an urgent need to develop a concept of security that takes account of the problems of uncertainty and insecurity in the lives of individuals, their families and the communities in which they live. The security of the citizen is more important than the security of the State.

Second, all countries — from the most advanced to the poorest societies — are facing social problems of various kinds. The social crisis is a global phenomenon. Although it is undoubtedly more dramatic in the least developed countries, it affects everybody. Consequently, no one should try to lecture to other people; it is much better to share ideas. The Programme of Action is a summary of policies that have yielded positive results in various parts of the world.

Third, there are no stable societies based on social inequality. The experience of history demonstrates, on the contrary, that all societies that are today considered to be developed achieved this "status" by gradually incorporating the concept of equity in their development processes. The Social Summit, together with other United Nations conferences that have taken place in the current decade, are opening the way to the major challenge of the twenty-first century — the fight for equity. This includes equity in the distribution of the benefits of development, equity between generations, equity in the sense of gender equality, equity in terms of respect for the environment, and equity and non-discrimination in the face of ethnic, religious and cultural diversity and in respect of minorities. In a word, development and the quality of a society are measured not in terms of how the wealthy live but in terms of how the poor live.

Fourth, the steady creation of wealth is a condition for the equitable distribution of the benefits of well-being. This requires a modern balance between the complementary but different functions of the State, of the market and of social organization. We have learned, painfully, that when the market is left to its own dynamics it excludes the weakest. We have learned that, without democratic control, the State becomes oppressive and that, without the rules of coexistence, society resorts to violence and force for the resolution of conflicts.

Fifth, there can be no sustainable social development in unstable economies. The solution of social problems only through the politics of well-being leads to populism. Equally, the necessary quest for a healthy economy and for macroeconomic balance must be accompanied by attention to macrosocial balance. President Frei has pointed out that we are in transition between the well-known concept of a State of well-being and the integrated vision of a State of equity. This is an imaginative, promotive, contemporary and fair State that respects economic, political and social balance and makes room for individual and collective creativity in society. Hence, the policies of structural adjustment mean that the costs of adjustment fall on the strongest sectors of a country, and not on the weakest. Otherwise, social conflicts can only worsen.

Sixth, there is no lack of resources for dealing with these problems. If we combine the public and private financial resources available throughout the world, they are more than sufficient. What is lacking is their focus on the priorities set by the World Summit for Social Development. This means more efficient public expenditure and more socially effective private investment. One important challenge facing us is making the investment of private resources in the solution to social problems good business and modernizing public policies so as to stimulate creativity and innovation in weaker sectors, thereby helping to satisfy their needs.

Seventh, there can be no sustained solution to social problems without intense international cooperation, particularly for the benefit of the least developed countries. The World Summit recognized for the first time in a United Nations context the need to consider debt cancellation for Africa and the least developed countries and suggested acceptance of the 20/20 initiative by countries which are willing to do so. The World Summit noted that multilateral debts require an innovative approach and that such United Nations programmes as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Population Fund require resources that match current needs. The World Summit provided a global consensus within which both the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank can play their part in implementing the

10 Commitments of the Heads of State and Government. Also, for the first time, at this high level there was systematic recognition that the special needs of countries with economies in transition must be taken into account at the international level.

Eighth, all the policies proposed in the Programme of Action converge toward a central idea, namely, the training of individuals to improve skills, which lies at the very heart of social reform. Education and health, training, the organization of civil society, structures for community participation, national and regional efforts, all these must be viewed as socially productive investments, not as unproductive social expenditures. We must invest in people, especially in women, and this investment is the most profitable a society can make.

Ninth, and lastly, I should like to highlight one dimension of the World Summit which I view as particularly significant. I am talking about recognizing the fact that human needs are not only material but also spiritual. In the heart of every human being exist values and ideals that must be satisfied. This is the moral backbone of any society, just as it is the foundation for confronting one of the main evils of contemporary life: a lack of meaning, a feeling of emptiness, the tendency to be morally indifferent to the problems and sufferings of others. With the necessary motivation, each and every one of us can make a larger and better contribution to improving human relations and find various ways of serving the community. These are necessary steps that must be taken if we are to transform fear for the future into a window of opportunity as we enter the twenty-first century.

The important question that all this raises is: how can we make this vision of a better society a reality? The draft resolution before us, which Chile fully supports, effectively establishes the various levels of intergovernmental responsibility.

The implementation of the 10 Commitments can only be approached as a major historical process in which the World Summit is both a starting-point for and part of the process. It is a starting-point, as were the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the environment, the 1974 Bucharest Conference on population and the 1975 Mexico Conference on women, but it is also part of one of the most creative processes within the experience of the United Nations. From the beginning of this decade, various Conferences, starting with the 1990 World Summit for Children and including the Habitat II Conference of 1996, the Organization has been defining in contemporary terms the major challenges we shall be facing in the twenty-first century.

To those who enjoy pointing out United Nations inefficiency and who would like to eliminate major conferences, I would venture to reply that there is no other national or multilateral process in which such a high level of consensus has been achieved regarding the steps we can take, the nature of the problems facing us and the policies needed to deal with them. This was clearly recognized in the excellent Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary. The major conferences some people would like to eliminate are an example of intellectual creativity and demonstrations of political skill in achieving agreements at a most reasonable cost — I would repeat this: at a most reasonable cost. For example, the World Summit for Social Development cost $2.5 million out of the regular United Nations budget. That represents the cost of half a day's peace-keeping operations in former Yugoslavia. Many of us are quite prepared to debate the relative efficiency of those two undertakings.

Lastly, I should like to refer to the commitment of the World Summit to eradicating absolute poverty by a given date in each country. I believe that with the passing of time that commitment will take on a historic significance. It represents the first time that the international community has recognized that poverty need not exist as a social institution and that it has made each society responsible for deciding when and how it can be eradicated, with international cooperation.

Why not make 1996 — the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty — the year in which we forge ahead towards this goal? Why not make the effort, in each and every one of our countries, to set a date in the course of that year for the eradication of absolute poverty, something to which we committed ourselves at Copenhagen.

By eradicating poverty we shall in a sense be working towards all the goals of all the United Nations Conferences convened in the 1990s — conferences on children, the environment, human rights, population, social development, women, Habitat. In addition, we know that employment is an initial step towards the elimination of poverty.

Poverty eradication is, moreover, a goal in which non-governmental organizations and civil society as a whole can find a common task that can lead to a great international social movement and — why not think boldly — even to a summit meeting of civil society, a summit at which social movements, trade unions, political parties, spiritual and religious movements and the whole rich gamut of non-governmental organizations, which have had so much influence at United Nations conferences, could all come together and become a prime moving force to energize the efforts to eliminate poverty.

Such a meeting could also go into the shortcomings of the World Summit with regard to structural changes in the world economy and the financing of democracy to facilitate the implementation of the 10 Commitments.

Allow me to close by saying a few words as Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit. These are words of thanks.

Our thanks go first of all to the Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who from the time of his election gave unceasing support to the Summit. We are also grateful for the efficient support of the Secretariat staff, in particular Mr. Nitin Desai and Mr. Jacques Baudot, who worked with us on the conference. I want especially to highlight the speed with which the United Nations system set up the three task forces to ensure integrated follow-up for the Summit and the decisions of the United Nations Development Programme and the International Labour Organization according priority in their work to these commitments regarding poverty and employment.

We wish finally to thank Denmark, whose Minister of Development Cooperation we are honoured to have among us today, for its important contribution to the success of the Summit and for the ongoing support from its Government and its principal representatives.

But above all, fellow representatives, I want to thank all of you in this Hall and all who came from your capitals to take part in the preparatory process. I am absolutely convinced that the Summit would not have been a success without the personal commitment of the diplomats who negotiated the agreements. I myself saw the creation of a spirit of responsibility and good will in which to think of those who live in poverty, those who are unemployed, and those who are the victims of social disintegration. I saw how participants drew on their own personal ideals and values, above and beyond their responsibility to represent national positions, for inspiration in this shared undertaking. On the path to Copenhagen I met, among diplomats and the representatives of the public at large, committed human beings; they were the real authors of the Summit. I saw spiritual wealth, professional serious-mindedness and a growing conviction that the Social Summit was an opportunity we could not afford to miss.

As the General Assembly, in this great Hall, considers the results of the Social Summit, I want to pay a plain, human tribute to all representatives, Missions and other participants: a tribute to what we are capable of achieving when we believe in what we are doing. Many thanks to you all; I will never forget what you have achieved.

Mr. Fowler (Canada) (*interpretation from French*): I welcome this opportunity to set out how Canada views the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. This is also the right occasion to speak to the role of the United Nations in the implementation of the Programme of Action. Since this is the first time the General Assembly has considered the Summit since the Copenhagen event, I wish to start by expressing our appreciation to Denmark for hosting the Summit, to the Danish Minister of Development Cooperation, and, of course, to Ambassador Somavia, for the passion and imagination — and, as we heard this morning, the eloquence — he brought to the whole process.

The Summit took a comprehensive approach to social development. It expressed a people-centred vision of sustainable development in which economic, social and environmental objectives are interwoven for the purpose of improving the well-being of people. Beyond the fine words, what is new here is the idea of individual economic and social security, which is emerging as an increasingly important factor in world affairs. From that comes a renewed focus on human development, both in domestic public policy and in international cooperation.

The Social Summit's approach to enablement and empowerment merits mention. Copenhagen recognized that at the heart of policies to enable social development are democratic institutions, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and respect for cultural diversity. This shows a profound understanding that these are policies that foster personal well-being and social and political inclusiveness. The emphasis on empowerment and participation of individuals and communities reflects the conviction that people should be able to participate fully in the decisions and processes that shape their lives. Development must be by people, not only for them. Gender equality is central to this.

It is worth referring also to the principles and values which suffuse the Declaration and Programme of Action — notably solidarity, partnership and mutual respect — as well as to the ethical underpinning of the key commitments made by our Heads of State. These principles, if implemented, offer an appropriate basis for national harmony, as well as for international cooperation in a world where interdependence is deepening at all levels.

High-minded declarations of intent often engender scepticism, especially when not tied to concrete action. The acid test for our publics will indeed be the follow-up. In planning for that, it is worth keeping in mind the new elements that Copenhagen brought forward in the international approach to social development.

A key point is the universal relevance of the issues addressed by the Social Summit. Poverty is a main concern, but the approach is not North-South. The reality is that all our countries are grappling in different ways with the central Summit themes: the reduction of poverty, the creation of employment, and the building of social cohesion.

While national responsibilities are paramount, we must not neglect the global context. We live at a time when people are being integrated into a global economy and culture. Traditional forms of solidarity, such as the extended family, as well as more modern forms of social protection, are changing as the roles of the family and the State change. Many countries are flourishing in the new economic context. However, severe problems of unemployment, poverty and income distribution have grown worse in many places, contributing to political instability, mass migration, environmental stress, and ethnic conflict.

(*Spoke in English*)

The Social Summit should be situated in the wider context of the current series of major United Nations international conferences that runs from Rio to Istanbul. Taken together, these conferences articulate a comprehensive vision of sustainable development. Canada believes that the coherent and coordinated implementation of the conclusions of these conferences should be the principal vocation of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields.

Given the inevitable overlap of issues among conferences, a thematic approach to follow-up is the only practical way forward. This is why we were pleased by the decision of the Secretary-General to establish three inter-agency task forces organized around the following key themes: the enabling environment for social and economic development, the meeting of basic needs; and sustainable livelihoods. We are especially pleased to note the close cooperation with the World Bank and the International Labour Organization (ILO) envisaged in these coordination arrangements. Goal-oriented, practical cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions, and with specialized agencies, is the best way to secure the closer partnership that is often called for. We encourage the Secretary-General to proceed with establishing a fourth task force, on the empowerment and advancement of women, to support sustained follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action. Of course, this would not diminish in any way the need for the other task forces to build the gender and sustainability dimensions into their work.

We know that the United Nations funds and programmes have already taken steps to put social development goals in general and the follow-up to Copenhagen in particular at the core of their work. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) can make a particular contribution in facilitating the system-wide effort by drawing upon its extensive field network to support coordinated programming and by helping to build national capacity to tackle poverty and other key Copenhagen commitments. We should acknowledge the leadership shown by Gus Speth in all these respects.

Canada also envisages a meaningful role for a revitalized Commission for Social Development in the follow-up to the Social Summit. We think there is room for a policy-oriented body to shed further light on how to attain the agreed goals. Accordingly, at its special session the Commission should give the highest priority to the formulation of a multi-year thematic work programme which reflects the Copenhagen framework. This work programme should recognize the important interrelationships between the core themes of the summit: poverty, employment and social integration. The Commission should also: adapt its mandate in order to ensure an integrated approach to social development; integrate the current sectoral issues on its agenda into the multi-year thematic programme of work; review and update its methods of work; seek creative ways of involving in its work independent experts and representatives of civil society.

We also continue to see an important role for the Economic and Social Council in harmonizing the work programmes of the Commission with others, as well as in providing policy coordination.

The Social Summit drew important commitments from all of us. It provides a basis for restoring social concerns to the heart of economic policy formulation. Through, for example, the idea of 20/20 compacts, it set out concrete ideas of how to direct more resources to poverty reduction and related objectives. In this respect, Canada has undertaken to provide 25 per cent of its official development assistance to meeting basic needs.

The 20/20 commitment is one example of how the Summit creatively envisaged constructive partnerships. We look forward to working closely with others to identify other creative ways for encouraging the implementation of the Summit outcomes. In so doing we will be mindful of the broader requirement for us all: to give substance to the undertaking made at Copenhagen — to put people first.

Mr. Guillén (Peru) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Last March we attended the conference in Copenhagen. Together, we decided on priorities and goals, and the Social Summit formulated a consensus strategy that generated the political will indispensable to the promotion of the human dimension of development as a priority objective, in particular in order to overcome poverty, increase productive employment and bring about social integration.

Today we are meeting to evaluate the implementation of the Copenhagen agreements in order to work constructively together in this process.

In our Organization, my delegation has always supported the specific responsibilities in the area of follow-up assigned to the Economic and Social Council, and in particular to its Commission for Social Development. Once again, starting in 1996, Peru will be a member of that Commission.

At the same time, we think it is extremely important to participate in the work of the international financial institutions. Their recommendations and their guidelines have a direct impact on social problems.

Peru attributes great importance to Denmark's idea — formulated by Minister Poul Nielson, Minister for Development Cooperation, who is here — to establish an independent forum for development, made up of eminent persons. Peru will be following with great interest whatever options Denmark suggests to follow up the commitments made at Copenhagen. We shall do so because of Denmark's clear-sightedness and generosity in the area of social cooperation, which have always been an example to be followed in the United Nations.

On their own initiative, the countries of Latin America established follow-up and coordination machinery for social policies, and the Rio Group has convened for 1996 an international conference on the eradication of poverty and discrimination.

The agreements reached in Copenhagen are a kind of practical guide of enormous importance for States. Primary responsibility for the implementation of the agreements rests, after all, with the individual countries. The present situation in Peru not only is entirely consistent with the Copenhagen agreements, but also falls very particularly within the framework provided by those agreements. Peru, at one and the same time, is carrying out a programme of structural adjustment and a programme of social support. We are doing this with our own resources, which are not inflationary. We are counting on receiving material and intellectual assistance from the international financial institutions of the United Nations, and the bilateral cooperation of those countries that are committed to Peru's economic development.

In this connection, our country presented a document on stabilization, economic reforms and social programmes in Peru to 11 developed countries and 13 international organizations that are members of the Consultative Group of the World Bank or the donor group which met in Paris on 24 and 25 October last. This document gives details on the efforts that we are making and the medium-term prospects in my country. On that occasion, representatives agreed to provide resources in the amount of $940 million which would be targeted to reduce poverty, with emphasis on the development of programmes of health, education, justice and consolidation of peace. We are confident that cooperation to this end will continue.

Over the medium-term, the major challenge to our country is the struggle to overcome poverty. The goal for the coming years is to reduce dire poverty by 50 per cent — that is, to reduce the figure of those living in poverty from 19.5 per cent to 10 per cent by the year 2000. This is being accomplished by means of a coordinated, innovative social policy strategy which, in the context of gradual institutional changes, sets aside the State as the sole centralizing entity. All actions must be taken in conjunction with a consistent economic policy, a programme aimed at transforming the productive apparatus, and the participation of society.

We are trying to promote an increase in production, generate employment and develop social programmes that meet the needs of the poorer segment of society. To this end, starting in 1995, the Government of Peru will allocate at least 40 per cent of the national budget to social expenditures — that is to say, 200 per cent more than what was agreed in Copenhagen.

At the same time, the plan to combat poverty — a significant step in the implementation of the agreements reached at the Social Summit — is envisaged as including 12 regional programmes, which will be developed on the basis of national concerns and criteria and of local priorities. The design of each of these programmes will be based on a characterization that includes socio-economic information, the identification of projects, urgent needs, and the productive or resource potential of each region.

Concomitantly, a programme of basic social expenditures is being developed that will improve the quality of social services. It covers four general areas: basic education, basic health, food supplements for at-risk groups, and basic justice. We believe that the struggle against poverty calls for more effective social spending, and, to this end, we are improving the manner in which we allocate, implement, control and monitor such expenditures.

My country, which is committed to generating genuine conditions for the integrated development of persons, families and communities through economic and social stability and peace, is tackling the Copenhagen commitments with enthusiasm and in a spirit of long-term commitment.

Mr. Wisnumurti (Indonesia): At the outset I should like to express my delegation's appreciation to the Secretary-General for his informative and comprehensive report on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. We have found the report to be most useful in these deliberations and in providing a good indication of the activities that have been undertaken thus far by the United Nations, as well as those in progress.

I should like to begin by reaffirming Indonesia's commitment to the goals and aspirations that were expressed at the World Summit for Social Development and its undertaking to actively follow up the outcome. The Declaration and Programme of Action adopted on that momentous occasion provide the international community with a pragmatic and viable framework for advancing the social development and well-being of all people, and thereby moving closer to realizing those ideals set out in the Charter of the United Nations.

As the international community recently had occasion to reflect on the progress that has been made during the Organization's first half-century of promoting social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, the serious obstacles that continue to confront humankind were also readily apparent. The socio-economic gains that have been made over the past years have yet to affect significantly the daily lives of many millions of men, women and children. Today, over one billion people — approximately 20 per cent of the world population — live in poverty and in unacceptable conditions. That number continues to rise as the gap between rich and poor nations continues to widen. At the same time, inadequate housing and rapid urbanization persist, and, despite the truly remarkable advances that have been made in science and technology, hunger and malnutrition remain a constant threat for many.

In this context, we believe that the Programme of Action adopted at the World Summit for Social Development reflects the determination of the international community to address the problem of poverty, the realization of which requires cooperation between the developed and developing countries and the display of their political will to proceed with follow-up activities in the spirit of partnership. The momentum generated and the opportunities presented at the World Summit should not pass without any concerted action.

It is my delegation's view that the implementation of the Programme of Action, as it currently stands, requires two basic approaches: mustering the necessary financial resources and revitalizing institutional structures to monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action.

While we concur with the view that the implementation of the Programme of Action is the primary responsibility of each Government, no one would deny that the developing countries will encounter many difficulties in reallocating already overstretched budgets to finance follow-up activities. The external debt problem of the developing countries and the declining tendency in official development assistance are among the obstacles that will be encountered by the developing countries as they seek to implement the Programme of Action. These should not be interpreted as an excuse by the developing countries not to implement the World Summit outcome; rather they mean that the support of the developed countries is needed in that effort. In this respect, my delegation cannot but agree with the Secretary-General when he states in his report that the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action in the developing countries will require additional financial resources and more development cooperation.

Turning to the institutional aspect, we fully agree that strong institutional frameworks are required to monitor and to assess the implementation of the Programme of Action. Without strong institutional support, the international community might register little progress. With this in mind, we need to look into the mandates of the existing institutions, such as that of the Commission for Social Development, which is currently mandated to advise the Economic and Social Council on social policies of a general character, and in particular all matters in the social field not covered by the specialized intergovernmental agencies. The Programme of Action views social development from many aspects, such as economic growth, structural adjustment and equal opportunities. Such a cross-cutting approach certainly requires institutions that have cross-cutting mandates. My delegation therefore looks forward to reviewing the mandates of the existing institutions in order to bring them more into line with the Programme of Action.

I should like to stress, in this connection, that the review of the mandates should contribute to a coordinated effort by all the functional commissions in following up the programmes of action of the various international conferences. In this respect, we believe that the role of the Economic and Social Council as a coordinating body needs to be further strengthened.

Greater coordination is needed to improve the impact of social development programmes and to avoid redundancy, and to give a greater focus to development efforts and improve their effectiveness. The importance of the Economic and Social Council in providing overall guidance and overseeing the system-wide coordination of the Summit outcome should be stressed. Such close coordination among the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council will certainly have a positive impact on the activities of the funds and programmes of the United Nations system, which are working at the field level and closely interact with people. In this respect, my delegation would like to emphasize the need to strengthen United Nations operational activities for development. Therefore, we attach great importance to the ongoing deliberations on the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199, which, *inter alia*, reviews the role of the resident coordinator system. We do hope that such a review will be directed towards a more strengthened and coordinated approach by the United Nations system in the implementation of the commitments agreed at the various international conferences, including the World Summit for Social Development.

While we focus our energy on the review of the mandates of the existing institutions in following up the Summit's commitments, this should not lead to inaction in other areas. Rather, it should strengthen our efforts so that we may work together hand in hand to fully implement the Programme of Action. In this respect, the Indonesian delegation considers that poverty alleviation is of the utmost importance for the international community to tackle, as poverty afflicts more than one billion people. Unless firm concerted efforts are taken by the international community, such a problem might constitute a threat to peace and international stability. In that connection, we welcome the decision to convene a special session of the Commission for Social Development in 1996. The Commission has a central role to play in providing information to the Economic and Social Council in its coordination activities and for assisting the international community in the elaboration of practical measures to implement follow-up activities. Since poverty is so pervasive, it is our view that the Commission should adopt the perspective on "the eradication of poverty" as the theme during its special session next year.

As a developing country, Indonesia is no stranger to human suffering and the despair that accompanies poverty and underdevelopment. As recently as 1970 approximately 60 per cent of our population lived below the poverty line. That level has been reduced to less than 15 per cent. Indonesia has recently embarked on its sixth Five-Year Development Plan, which is centred on poverty alleviation, with rapid and sustainable growth in labour-intensive sectors being a key element. Our programme for eradicating poverty has been successful as it promotes sustained self-reliance by enabling the regional and local levels to undertake and manage development projects consistent with their respective needs.

Indonesia also has convened a workshop attended by representatives from the Government and from non-governmental organizations, business circles, academia, our legislature and the mass media to identify and coordinate cross-sectoral development programmes that will be implemented in line with the World Summit Declaration and Programme of Action. And we are responding to the suggestion made by the Secretary-General to name a national focal point for follow-up activities. We concur with the assessment that such initiatives should play a role in maintaining the momentum that was generated last March in Copenhagen.

In concluding, I would like to express the sincere hope and expectation of the Indonesian delegation that the World Summit for Social Development will translate into a real improvement of global standards of living and reduction of poverty. This will require the United Nations development bodies and specialized agencies to lend their assistance to the developing countries as they implement the Programme of Action. All in the international community must continue to work to fulfil the commitments we made in Copenhagen, and thereby begin a new era of intertwined interests, of cooperation and of genuine partnership.

Mr. Fernandes (India): At the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, our leaders committed themselves to the goal of eradicating poverty in the world through decisive national actions and international cooperation as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind. At the international level, it was agreed to focus attention on and support the special needs of countries and regions in which there are substantial concentrations of people living in poverty and which, therefore, face serious difficulties in achieving social and economic development. The Summit reaffirmed the rights relating to education, food, shelter, employment, health and information, particularly in order to assist people living in poverty.

Mr. Ould Ely (Mauritania), Vice-President, took the Chair.

On the other two core issues identified for the Summit, our leaders committed themselves to promoting the goal of full employment and social integration.

The world today, everyone acknowledges, stands at the crossroads of history, even as it struggles to free itself from the attitudes and confines of the cold-war era. Certain paradigms of development that had placed the State alone at the centre have had to be reversed significantly. National rivalries and competition, often defined along ideological lines for more than four decades, are searching for new identities and motivation. The interest in the cause of development, often based in the past on the search for allies, is giving way to a questioning of the utility of international development cooperation. There is also a swing to the other side and a tendency to put an unfettered market system alone at the centre of the new scheme of things.

While this new enthusiasm is being promoted across the globe, practical experience is generating a search for and recourse to what my Prime Minister described in Copenhagen as a "market-plus" approach. Otherwise, the poor and the weak will suffer exclusion owing to the imperfections and the tyranny of the market.

To succeed, any approach must place the people at the centre. This centrality of people is extremely important. It was recognized in the Rio Declaration and reaffirmed and expanded on at Copenhagen. We have to empower the people themselves as the central strategy to social and economic development to sustain human progress. The effort must be to empower every disadvantaged class and group, indeed, every single disadvantaged person. This in turn would be possible only when certain rights fundamental to human development are guaranteed to people.

International cooperation remains in today's context essential to facilitate and accelerate national economic and social development. To begin with, all countries the world over are in need of social development and integration. The dominant cause for discord may be different in different countries, but no society can claim to be fully integrated. We have only to look around us to see the exclusion and marginalization experienced by significant sections of the population in developed countries, particularly as a result of human failings, imperfection of social organization, as well as the dictates of the market-based approach.

The core issues of poverty eradication, employment generation and social integration cannot be addressed credibly without adequate resources, non-discriminatory access to markets and the availability of modern technologies for invigorating economic and social progress. At the national level, countries have to commit the resources required to realize the rights of the people in terms of building of infrastructure, institution-building and institution-strengthening, and formulation of policies and designing of strategies and mechanisms of monitoring and evaluation that permit substantial implementation.

The Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, mobilized the masses of India in our struggle for freedom. He inspired an impoverished nation to win freedom from the world's mightiest empire by non-violent means. As India struggles towards its second freedom, the freedom from want, disease and ignorance, we go back to Mahatma Gandhi and his technique of social mobilization of the people. Our strategy goes well beyond representative governance and endeavours to bring in more and more people's participation at the grass-roots level.

To this end, in the last couple of years we have amended our Constitution to provide for decentralized, participative, village- level democratic institutions with statutory representation for the socially disadvantaged groups of our people. One third of all elective representative posts at the local level have been reserved for women. We have resolved to make the concerns of gender and the rights of children, adolescents and youth the centre of all our decision-making, including economic decision-making.

In Copenhagen our leaders adopted a visionary document that incorporates major commitments for national action and international cooperation. It is essential that we put in place effective follow-up machinery to translate these commitments into action. The entire United Nations system should be involved in the follow-up process. My delegation favours a three-tiered structure for follow-up, involving the Commission for Social Development, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. A review meeting should be held in five years. The Bretton Woods institutions, the specialized agencies and, in particular, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) should be involved in a coordinated manner. We should look not only at the situation in developing countries, but also the societal problems of developed countries.

There is also a need to increase substantially the availability of resources for international cooperation for social development. It is particularly shocking, therefore, that soon after the adoption of these major commitments, we are faced with the prospect of incomplete replenishment of International Development Association 10 and uncertainty regarding International Development Association 11. Increased attention should be paid to the commitment made to facilitate increased transfers of real resources to the developing countries. The legitimate world-wide concern with social development ought not to degenerate simply into additional conditionalities imposed on developing countries from abroad. The agenda for social development cannot be viewed in isolation. The domestic resources needed for social development can be mobilized only if the economy is growing rapidly. A holistic approach has to be adopted in assessing the balance between expenditures on economic services and on social services.

For their part, the developing countries must, of course, increase the availability of domestic resources by reorienting public expenditures and minimizing waste. However, the central question relating to the overall limits of available resources cannot be ignored. At low per capita income levels, even with the best political will and expenditure policies, sufficient resources cannot be mobilized for the programmes outlined at the Summit. The onus, therefore, rests on the international community to generate a substantial increase in the flow of external resources for poverty eradication and social development.

I believe that in the post-cold-war era our countries, through the United Nations, have entered into a major compact for national economic and social development and for international cooperation to this end. This compact is embodied in the outcome of the series of world conferences held over the past five years. We now have to ensure an effective and coordinated follow-up to the commitments undertaken.

Mrs. Kaba (Côte d'Ivoire) *(interpretation from French)*: The major world conferences organized by the United Nations in recent years have had development as their central theme. These conferences, while focusing on issues such as the environment, human rights, population, women and human settlements, have above all striven to promote development in its various aspects while emphasizing an approach based on the full flowering of the human being.

The World Summit for Social Development, which was a part of that trend, went a step further by defining more specifically the great problems of our societies that hamper the well-being of the individual and deny people's right to live in dignity. These ills are called poverty, unemployment and the marginalization of vulnerable populations.

In order to eliminate poverty, create jobs and guarantee social integration, the Copenhagen Programme of Action sets forth measures to promote a favourable economic and political environment. The General Assembly, as the principal intergovernmental body, is called on to act as a catalyst in the international community's implementation of the Copenhagen commitments. We must therefore consider here concrete actions leading to the eradication of poverty and social injustice and the creation of jobs.

We must seek above all to be innovative in the area of international cooperation because the development strategies launched since the 1960s have not succeeded in reducing the gap between the rich countries and the developing countries. Quite the contrary: the gulf has widened, despite the series of development decades. Far from decreasing, poverty has grown to the point of being unbearable and now affects three out of four people in Africa. In addition to marginalization, the exclusion of poor countries from economic decision-making bodies makes the resumption of North-South dialogue difficult.

The creation of an economic and political environment conducive to social development presupposes, in addition to the maintenance or establishment of peace, the promotion of a suitable juridical and political framework so that all a country's citizens can participate in its development. Commendable efforts are being made by African countries to establish a favourable democratic climate for the participation of all. Despite an unprecedented economic crisis, Africa has responded to the demands of the international community by implementing development strategies and structural-adjustment programmes. However, we are still awaiting the emergences of a spirit of partnership based on mutual respect, shared responsibilities and reciprocal advantages.

The failure of current approaches is obvious. We must raise the awareness of donors, encourage them to act, support the work of development agencies and stir international financial institutions to combat poverty, hunger and destitution.

Our Assembly must examine the possibility of bringing about the creation of an international safety net designed to improve resource flows to the developing countries by increasing official development assistance to attain the goal of 0.7 per cent of gross national product; to take urgent measures to cancel or convert the debts of the poor countries in order to finance social programmes; to adapt structural-adjustment programmes to pressing social needs in order to reduce the negative impact of these programmes on social development; and to create conditions conducive to mutually beneficial trade.

These measures will make it possible to mobilize additional resources to finance education, health, housing, sanitation and food programmes and job creation.

The foreign-debt burden of African countries is a major obstacle to the continent's social development. From a total of $48.5 billion in 1978, Africa's foreign debt mushroomed to $297 billion in 1993, which is almost equivalent to the gross domestic product of the entire continent. Côte d'Ivoire, for example, spends 10 times as much on debt servicing as it invests in public health.

Hence, we need to provide our Organization with new guidelines to strengthen international cooperation and revive North-South dialogue in order to promote the economic and social development of the poor countries. Serious consideration should be given to cancelling or relieving their foreign debt. The strategies established by the World Bank to eradicate poverty by facilitating access to credit and the creation of small and medium-sized enterprises are encouraging. However, we are waiting impatiently for measures to defer the debt of Sub-Saharan African countries. United Nations Development Programme initiatives to reduce poverty, in particular in rural areas, deserve our support. The fight against poverty must be a priority in the work of development agencies during the United Nations decade for the eradication of poverty.

My delegation has studied carefully the proposal of Denmark to establish an independent forum on social development. We hope that the forum will serve to maintain the momentum of the Social Summit and to continue the consideration of social policies and analyses in respect of selected countries. My delegation would like to have more information about the forum, but we do have reservations with regard to any initiative that would diminish our Assembly's central role as a catalyst for world social-development policies. We think that the Commission for Social Development should be strengthened, as provided for in the Copenhagen Programme of Action. My delegation supports the idea of setting up a social-development fund that would finance programmes and projects and would encourage exchanges of information on the follow-up to the Social Summit.

In conclusion, I wish to appeal to our Assembly to encourage manifestations of real political will on the part of Governments to abide by their commitments. Without this political will, any seminars, deliberations, studies or strategies would be in vain. It is time for action because we have already said all there is to say, while destitution and hunger continue to claim victims.

Mr. Amorim (Brazil): I have the honour to speak on the agenda item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development".

One need not stress, at this stage of the debate, the centrality of the issue of development among the objectives enshrined in the United Nations Charter, especially not after the series of so-called global conferences which started with the World Summit for Children in 1990. Among them, the World Summit for Social Development stands as a milestone. I want to join in the well-deserved applause for Ambassador Somavía, who was the very soul of that Summit. The international community, at the highest level, gathered in Copenhagen and committed itself to the promotion of social development by addressing 10 related issues: an enabling environment for social development; poverty; unemployment; social integration; the situation of women; education and health; the situation of Africa and the least developed countries; social aspects of structural adjustment; resources for social development; and a framework for international cooperation for social development.

Neither the Social Summit, however, nor the other conferences, among them the forthcoming Habitat II, should be seen as isolated events or special occasions for the international community to reiterate commitments to the well-being of people. They have to be seen globally as part of a concerted effort to upgrade the treatment of the issue of development within the United Nations. As important as these impressive demonstrations of support for the social cause is the daily practice of our work here and our capacity to turn these declarations of principles into concrete action. For this reason, the Brazilian Government welcomes the opportunity to discuss follow-up strategies derived from the Copenhagen conference. We are convinced that what we have achieved until now, as spelt out in the various documents agreed upon in recent global conferences, constitutes a valuable basis for action.

The Brazilian Government attaches the highest priority to the promotion of economic and social development. Central among the many actions taken in the social sphere in Brazil is the recent creation of the Solidarity Community Programme, which seeks to coordinate efforts in the governmental area for the eradication of absolute poverty in collaboration with civil society. The actions within the Programme are divided into five categories — food and nutrition, basic urban services, rural development, income and job creation and protection of social welfare and rights — which encompass 14 specific programmes, to which $4 billion of the 1995 federal budget was allocated.

The Solidarity Community Programme should be understood within the context of other goals of our Government in the political and economic fields, such as the strengthening of democracy, the maintenance of economic stability, the promotion of sustainable development and the reform of the State. Particular attention should be given, in this respect, to the economic stabilization plan, the "Plano Real", an example of macroeconomic adjustment undertaken against the background of social priorities. After a year and a half of economic stabilization, the necessary conditions for economic and social development were in place. By eliminating the corrosive effect of inflation, an estimated $15 billion was transferred to the poorest segments of our society.

The question of development must be addressed in an integrated way. We are deeply convinced that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. The Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action have embodied this comprehensive view of economic, social and environmental issues, in particular in Commitment 8, which stresses the necessity of taking into account social goals within structural-adjustment programmes. Hence, for the Brazilian delegation it is essential that issues such as investment, trade and financial flows, among others, be discussed at the United Nations. The Bretton Woods institutions, in turn, should lay stronger emphasis on the social dimension of structural-adjustment programmes. This complex reality makes it clear that closer cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions is absolutely necessary.

In the Fifth Committee, my delegation has already addressed the issue of resources. There we indicated our concern at the groupings of the priority areas of the medium-term plan with regard to resolutions and mandates already agreed upon. The grouping of four very important rubrics under a single title relating to the enhancement of international and regional cooperation for development raises some doubt as to the priority being given to the promotion of development, which must remain a cornerstone of this Organization. While we very much support the efforts undertaken to streamline the work of the Organization and sharpen its focus, we firmly believe that this cannot be done at the expense of the mandated activities and programmes agreed upon at the highest level.

As far as coordination is concerned, my delegation wishes to emphasize the need to ensure consistency of approach among the multisectoral strategies being pursued by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP) and others. In this respect, our ongoing deliberations should concentrate on an appraisal of any existing coordinating arrangements and on a set of proposals on means to enhance interlinkages.

In conclusion, my delegation is convinced that, without prejudice to specific action on critical areas — such as poverty, children and women — only a comprehensive approach to the question of development, which must encompass the concerted efforts of different international institutions, can provide definite responses to social challenges. We are deeply committed to this approach, both in policies being carried out in Brazil and in our participation in international forums.

Mr. Park (Republic of Korea): At the outset, we would like to welcome the inclusion of the item on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development in the agenda of this anniversary session of the General Assembly. My delegation takes this opportunity to thank the Government of Denmark for successfully hosting the Summit and for its commendable efforts to follow up on the outcome.

The World Summit for Social Development, held this past March in Copenhagen, was a timely and important opportunity to address the social and economic issues that have gained marked prominence on the global agenda, particularly in the post-cold-war period. It was at this historic meeting that the international community articulated a renewed commitment and resolve to secure the well-being and social progress of humanity for the twenty-first century. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Ambassador Juan Somavía for his important work as the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Copenhagen Summit.

My delegation is confident that the Summit Declaration and Programme of Action, which were adopted through the concerted and untiring efforts of the participants, will contribute to the ongoing process to create an international society capable of meeting the challenges of the new era and to define our common goals for the prosperity of the next generation. In this context, my delegation reiterates its support for the decision to hold a special session in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the outcome of the Summit.

Considering the multiple tasks enumerated in the Declaration and the Programme of Action, it may be appropriate for each Government to identify and prioritize its own strategic goals within the framework of these documents. However, my delegation is convinced that those goals should be pursued in a comprehensive manner, integrating a variety of dimensions, such as environmental, human rights and gender issues. In this regard, my delegation hopes that the social development perspectives of the major international conferences that have taken place in recent years in Rio, Cairo, Copenhagen and Beijing will be duly incorporated in the follow-up measures.

Moreover, the implementation should comprise a number of elements of economic development and social progress, while respecting the diversity of the social, traditional and cultural conditions of the respective country. To that end, the coordinating role of the United Nations is a prerequisite for ensuring the coherence of the activities of all the actors involved in the promotion of international cooperation for social development. More than ever, the promotion and strengthening of the coordination of the United Nations system with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, at all levels, are necessary for global development programmes.

It is clear that the main responsibility for social development rests with the national Governments. However, international cooperation and assistance are needed to bolster the efforts of the developing countries, especially the economic, social and human resources development of Africa and the least developed countries. As the Secretary-General emphasizes in his report in document A/50/670, the situation of the least developed countries should be fully taken into account in the follow-up to the Summit. These countries will require additional financial resources, more effective development cooperation and the assistance of the international community.

As President Kim of the Republic of Korea pointed out during the Social Summit in Copenhagen, expanding trade and investment alone will hardly be sufficient to resolve the pressing issues affecting the developing countries. It is imperative that more efficient support and cooperation be provided to the development programmes of developing countries. Furthermore, my delegation is convinced that the assistance provided by developed countries will contribute to the socio-economic development of the world as a whole and ultimately benefit the donors themselves.

To follow up on the announcement made by my President at the World Summit for Social Development, my Government is drawing up a master plan not only to expand the scope of our public development support, matching the level of Korea's economic capability, but also to provide technical training for more than 30,000 people from fellow developing countries by the year 2010.

One of the critical areas of concern requiring concerted international efforts is the eradication of poverty. Considering that poverty persists as one of the most serious obstacles to development efforts, my delegation would like to stress the vital importance of enhancing cooperation between developed countries and international financial organizations to eliminate the threat of poverty in developing countries, especially the least developed ones. In this context, it is timely and appropriate that 1996 has been declared the first year of the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty.

Given that women in developing countries are the primary victims of discrimination and social injustice, we must place special emphasis on them in our global social development efforts. Sustainable development can be achieved only by establishing gender equality in all facets of development. Equal rights and opportunities for women in the areas of education, health and family planning are preconditions for genuine development. Moreover, existing social institutions that perpetuate gender discrimination should be rectified. For that reason, the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women should be adequately reflected in the programmes for global social development.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year. Recognizing the vast potential of youth the world over, and as its first follow-up measure to the World Summit for Social Development, the Korean Government hosted, with the cooperation of the United Nations, the World Youth Leaders Conference in Seoul in May 1995. Under the theme of "The Role of the New Generation in the Age of Globalization", this three-day Conference, which was attended by representatives from 64 countries, discussed a variety of issues involving the role of youth for the betterment of the future. The outcome of the Conference was distributed as an official document of the General Assembly (A/50/454).

As the Secretary-General stated in his message to the Conference, in order to prepare for the twenty-first century it is essential that young people be empowered to utilize their freedom, energy and talents to create a world of tolerance, mutual respect and a sense of shared human venture. My delegation hopes that this initiative of the Korean Government will give a new impetus to worldwide youth policies and programmes.

Both the Copenhagen Summit and the Beijing Conference highlighted the role that civil society can play in the critical follow-up stage of the global conferences. The contributions of civil society, which includes non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the mass media, have proved to be very important throughout the preparatory and follow-up processes. In this regard, my delegation welcomed the seminar on the involvement of civil society in the follow-up to the Social Summit. This seminar was held in June 1995 and was hosted by the secretariat of the World Summit for Social Development. My delegation believes that greater attention should be given to the contributions of civil society, not just as valuable partners but as indispensable actors in implementing the outcome of these global conferences.

Finally, my delegation would like to stress that, in our pursuit of development, human-centred development is a top priority. Indeed, as the Social Summit's Programme of Action proclaims, only through investment in people and their well-being will the objectives of social development be achieved. Indeed, it is my delegation's firm belief that human-centred development will have a far greater and more lasting effect in achieving stability and prosperity all round the globe.

In this regard, my delegation would like to emphasize the importance of the democratic participation of all actors in society, the protection of fundamental human rights and the promotion of social welfare and equality as the basis of our continuing endeavour in implementing the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development.

Ms. Arystanbekova (Kazakstan): It is an honour for me to address this plenary meeting on agenda item 161, "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development".

The delegation of Kazakstan fully supports the decision of the General Assembly that matters pertaining to the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit should be dealt with by the Assembly in plenary meeting this year. In our view, the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations is an excellent opportunity for the Organization to comprehensively analyse its activities in a sphere of such extreme importance.

The World Summit for Social Development, which took place in Copenhagen this March, followed a series of important United Nations international conferences: the Rio Conference on Environment and Development; the World Conference on Human Rights, which was held in Vienna; the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development; and the World Conference on Women, which took place in Beijing. All these global events, which were held not long ago, re-emphasized the strong determination of the international community to fully implement its goals in the sphere of social and economic development. They also emphasized the need to approach the follow-up to the United Nations conferences in an integrated manner.

The World Summit for Social Development became another important milestone in the history of the world community. It defined and outlined the aims and purposes of further international cooperation in the solution of the three key issues — poverty, unemployment and social disintegration, which have been defined by the United Nations as the most pressing problems of modern society.

The delegation of Kazakstan fully supports the following idea expressed by the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in his report "Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development":

> "The follow-up and implementation of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the Social Summit are particularly challenging owing to the complex and interconnected nature of the issues and the commitments made." (*A/50/670, para. 3*)

We also share the Secretary-General's view that

> "The reduction and elimination of poverty, the promotion of productive employment, the creation of socially integrated societies and the creation of a political and economic environment supportive of those goals entail a vast array of policies and actions". (*ibid.*)

We think that a top-priority task of the international community today is to mobilize efforts at the national, regional and global levels, under the auspices of the United Nations, to comprehensively implement the proposals that emerged from the Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development. In this context, we agree with the Secretary-General that the main responsibility for the implementation of those proposals rests on national Governments.

I should like to remind representatives that on 29 March 1995 the Secretary-General sent to Heads of State and Government a letter in which he stressed the political significance of the World Summit for Social Development and of the commitments undertaken there. In his response, the President of the Republic of Kazakstan, Nursultan Nazarbaev, emphasized the determination of the Government of the Republic to foster social development and to implement the objectives and commitments adopted by the Social Summit. His letter says:

> "I ... fully share your views regarding the need for the practical implementation of the Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action adopted at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen.
>
> "I should like to emphasize that the results of the Copenhagen meeting have provided the basis for the social policy of our State for the next few years and for the long term."

In this regard, it may be noted that the activities of Kazakstan are strategically directed towards the solution of social problems that are particularly urgent and significant at this stage in the country's transition.

In the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakstan, adopted by referendum in August 1995, Kazakstan affirms that it is a democratic, secular, social State, which accepts the rule of law and whose highest values are human beings and their lives.

In my country, national legislation establishes the forms of social assistance extended to the poorer sections of the population. About 5 million people are covered by social services. By a decree of the President, regional charitable funds have been established for the purpose of improving the social welfare services targeted on needy and disabled citizens. By a decision of the Government, the social doctrine of the Republic of Kazakstan is being worked out. This will reinforce State regulation of the social system. With the coming qualitative changes in the economy, reduced inflation will strengthen the social services provided for the population and will increase the purchasing power of social benefits.

Questions relating to social services for the unemployed are decided on the basis of employment programmes worked out at both national and regional levels. At present, and for the short term, social strategy is directed towards providing pensioners, the disabled, large families and single mothers, students, orphans and other categories of citizens social guarantees on the basis of a variable minimum wage.

Today Kazakstan is continuing to cooperate with the international organizations in the social and economic fields. In May 1995 the World Bank approved a social protection project in the Republic of Kazakstan. This project would strengthen the institutional capacity of the employment service to register the unemployed and calculate and pay unemployment benefits, to provide a more effective service to unemployed job-seekers, to analyse labour markets and to formulate labour market policies. It would also develop a sharper focus for training and retraining of the unemployed, particularly women and youth. In this regard, it may be mentioned that the social protection project is the first project in the social sphere among the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The discussion and adoption of the project aroused great interest among the States members of the Commonwealth and the eastern European countries. If this project in Kazakstan is successful, the World Bank hopes to use analogous schemes in other countries in transition.

The fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations was marked by a forum of extreme importance in the history of the international community — the World Summit for Social Development. That global event, its principles and its goals, has imposed a great task on us, that of effectively working together, hand in hand, to overcome global challenges. In this regard, I should like again to emphasize that the Government of the Republic of Kazakstan will continue to take all the necessary steps fully to implement the important decisions of the Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development.

Mr. Yoogalingam (Malaysia): It is over eight months since our leaders met at Copenhagen and forged a universal commitment to a political, economic, ethical and spiritual vision for social development. This was to be based on the value of and respect for the human person, taking into account the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of all peoples. The Copenhagen Declaration, as well as the Programme of Action, embodies this fundamental compact, spanning issues relating to poverty eradication, productive employment and social integration.

It is now our task here at this session to implement and follow up on what our leaders agreed to at Copenhagen. In our task, we should never forget the centrality of people in development in the pursuit of social justice, solidarity, harmony and equality among people and Member States. The international community must continue to advance the genuine cause of pluralism and responsible economic and social development.

We have already moved from Vienna to Rio to Cairo to Copenhagen to Beijing, articulating with lofty intentions global programmes of action to improve the human condition and the state of the world, but we have never satisfactorily made available the means to implement our intentions. We seem to be at our best in rhetoric, never wanting to distinguish, or seemingly unable to distinguish, between short-sighted self-interest and the care and well-being of our peoples and the world. The affluent must practise a culture of commitment and fulfil the obligations agreed to at all these global conferences. At the same time, developing countries are honour bound to promote national economic and social development designed to alleviate, if not eradicate, poverty.

It is untenable that 1.3 billion people should continue to live in abject poverty in the world today. We should collectively strive towards an action programme that would seek to ensure that poverty eradication is not solely indicator-driven. Each individual, and in particular the world's poor, should be guaranteed a minimum level of sustenance, measured not only in terms of dollars, but in terms of calorie intake. The intention is not to advocate the concept of a welfare State, but to identify tangible ways and means to break the back of abject poverty.

The entire international strategy for addressing poverty eradication remains ad hoc. If, indeed, poverty eradication is the central issue of our time, the international community must concretize specific actions designed to address the problem. The resources and the institutional framework must be in place to address this issue.

My delegation fully agrees with the emerging consensus here on the three themes in addressing the issue of poverty eradication. The themes are, first, the formulation of an integrated strategy; secondly, meeting the basic human needs of all; and, thirdly, the promotion of self-reliance and community-based initiatives. They give us a sound basis to start our work immediately.

My delegation, however, would also wish to underline the importance of social integration. The security of the human person demands a comprehensive and mutually reinforcing approach, which should be free from narrow political agendas. Human rights issues should not become the sole criteria for social integration. The external pressures involving the human person, which ignore internal and local dynamics, are bound to be unsustainable. Age-old cultures, the mores and values of the people, need to be taken fully into account.

In identifying and agreeing to the priorities for the implementation of the Programme of Action at the global level, due consideration should be given to the vast differences in the level of development, from the least developed to the highly industrialized Member States, as well as to Member States whose economies are in transition. In our consultations we should be mindful that the priorities and proposed measures to implement the Programme may not be appropriate to all Member States, and we should never forget that at the end of the day the primary responsibility for implementing the World Summit's agreed goals falls on individual Member States and must be facilitated by a conducive external economic environment.

We welcome the initiatives of the international financial institutions to continue to find ways to alleviate the debt problem of the developing countries created by an increase in net flows of private debt, the effects of cross-currency valuation and rescheduled interest payments. The impact of these factors on the economic and social development of developing countries need not be tabulated here, for we are all acutely aware of them. The Naples Terms, initiated by the Paris Club, represent a debt-rescheduling module for low-income countries that could be further widened to alleviate the debt burden of developing States and let them focus on the eradication of poverty through people-centred sustainable-development programmes, which must be workable.

As for the institutional follow-up, the United Nations system has a catalytic role to play in the implementation of this Programme. We agree that the General Assembly should concentrate on formulating policies *vis-à-vis* its implementation, and that the Economic and Social Council should provide the overall guidance and coordination within the United Nations system. The move by the Council to have a review of cross-cutting themes common to the major international conferences organized by the United Nations is both timely and necessary. We should avoid duplication and ensure that maximum resources are devoted to the recipients rather than to underwriting a maze of institutional arrangements.

The proposal of the Economic and Social Council to organize several meetings to address specific issues with the chairpersons and secretariats of the functional commissions may be a step in the right direction, towards identifying and focusing on the priority areas. However, we urge that these meetings not get embroiled in procedural matters but rather focus on workable programmes of action and appropriate deployment of resources. We also welcome the decision of the Commission for Social Development to open its debates to experts and main actors of civil society to gain their views and their input on how best to enhance cooperation between and the participation of the private and the public sectors in developing and implementing social development programmes.

We support the proposal to consider this item every year until the year 2000, when a special session would be held for an overall review and appraisal of the programmes undertaken. However, the proposed convening of a high-level meeting in 1997 might again divert human and financial resources to preparations for that meeting rather than focusing on implementation. Progress will already be monitored by the Economic and Social Council, the Commission for Social Development and the General Assembly itself. What we need for the annual consideration of the General Assembly is an integrated annual summary report and a comprehensive report on the outcome of the implementation of the World Summit for Social Development for the year 2000 only.

My delegation is of the view that we should not overreach ourselves in the first year, but should approach the matter incrementally on a country-by-country and project-by-project basis, with the initial focus on the eradication of poverty and building national capacity.

Mr. Butler (Australia): As many before me have observed, the Summit at Copenhagen was the largest meeting of its kind ever held. That was not the result of an accident or of some reason incidental to the state of affairs of humankind today. That largest summit ever held — that is, until the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations — saw a political commitment made at Copenhagen to action on social development, and it showed how far the world has come towards giving priority to the well-being of people and to their central, basic needs. In substance, the Summit showed that a more integrated and determined effort will be required if the objectives of enhancing social development and ensuring human well-being are to be achieved.

Copenhagen, as we all know, had three core themes: the eradication of poverty, the provision of employment and the fostering of social integration. It underlined that these three core issues are of the greatest intrinsic importance to an overwhelming number of the world's people. Heads of State or Government gathered at Copenhagen responded to this fact by recognizing consensually that action on these three core issues should be amongst the overriding goals of the international community.

In the 10 Commitments made by Heads of State or Government in Copenhagen we saw just how comprehensive our implementation of action on those three core themes must be in order to ensure social development and social justice for all.

We are almost at the end of a chain of important and major international conferences held by the United Nations since 1991 in the fields of economic and social development. Each of those conferences had its own thematic unity. The last of them is to come next June, with the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, to be held in Istanbul.

All of them require effective follow-up and implementation of their results. This must be done in a way that links the outcomes of each and that contributes to the building of an integrated framework for a global partnership for development. At the intergovernmental level, this means harmonizing the agendas and work programmes of the functional commissions that will follow up the conferences, and promoting at the same time a clear division of labour amongst them. It means strengthening the role and the structures, the resources and the processes of the Economic and Social Council to promote such coordination and to review the implementation of the decisions taken at the Copenhagen Summit. In this context, we fully endorse the agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council on follow-up and implementation of the results of these major international conferences.

At the operational level, this means enhancing inter-agency coordination, including by the Administrative Committee on Coordination and through the use of inter-agency task forces, to ensure coordinated efforts by agencies. It also means securing the active participation of the funds, the programmes and the relevant specialized agencies, as well as of non-governmental organizations and relevant elements of civil society.

In this context, we welcome the establishment by the Secretary-General of task forces for the follow-up of the Summit and other related United Nations conferences, and the agreement by the World Bank and the International Labour Organization to serve as lead agencies. We also welcome the direction given by Executive Heads that the gender dimension should be taken fully into account in the work of all of the task forces to follow up the major conferences.

The World Summit for Social Development recognized the importance of the full participation of all in the achievement of social progress, justice and the betterment of the human condition. We would encourage, therefore, the widest implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action, including by public and private institutions and organizations. Just as the preparatory process for the Summit garnered massive contributions and support from non-governmental organizations and actors from civil society, we urge the United Nations to harness their commitment and their enthusiasm in the work of following up upon the Summit.

The Economic and Social Council working group on non-governmental organizations will continue to deliberate on the arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organizations next year. We hope that the Commission for Social Development, which will be designated as having a central role in reviewing Summit outcomes, will also give consideration to the modalities for facilitating the involvement of non-governmental organizations and civil society in the work of the Commission.

In addition, we consider the Commission's work would be greatly enhanced by the opening of its debates to experts and main actors of civil society in the field of social development. This would stimulate real and substantial dialogue on issues of central importance. It would also enable the Commission to begin to formulate relevant guidance on actions to be taken to implement the outcomes of the Summit, at both the operational and the intergovernmental levels.

We look forward to the review next year of the Commission's mandate, agenda and work practices. While we expect the future activities of the Commission will continue to rely upon its comparative advantages in the overall structure of intergovernmental bodies — one of which is its capacity to consider issues pertaining to social integration — we also expect that it will pay attention to universal issues, in particular, to the gender issue.

Other Commissions, with their respective mandates, will also need to follow up on the Summit.

The strengthening of the role of the Economic and Social Council in overseeing system-wide coordination, of course, remains of paramount importance. In this context, the Council should ensure the implementation and integration of the outcomes of the Summit into the work of the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations.

The widest possible implementation of the Summit Declaration and Programme of Action must also involve the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as the means of monitoring those aspects of the Declaration and Programme of Action which relate to compliance by States parties with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Universal ratification of the Covenant would also enhance the effective implementation of the Summit, and we very strongly encourage this.

What happened at Copenhagen was an event of profound importance. It is now our task to implement it, showing full respect for the importance of its content to the people of this world and to the unique political commitment given at the Conference at Copenhagen.

Programme of work

The President: I should like to make an announcement concerning agenda item 45, "The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development".

Contrary to the announcement made at yesterday's meeting, action on draft resolution A/50/L.17/Rev.1, submitted under this agenda item, will be taken at a later date, to give the Fifth Committee more time to review the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

I should like to inform members that reports of the First Committee will now be taken up on Tuesday, 12 December 1995, in the afternoon, rather than on Wednesday, 13 December, as originally scheduled.

Announcement

The President: I should also like to make an announcement concerning agenda item 24, "Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s".

I wish to inform members that I have appointed His Excellency Mr. Alex Reyn, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations, to be the coordinator of the informal consultations on draft resolution A/50/L.40, submitted under this agenda item.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

United Nations

A/50/PV.84

General Assembly

Fiftieth Session

Official Records

84th plenary meeting
Thursday, 7 December 1995, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Diogo Freitas do Amaral . . . . (Portugal)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Kulla (Albania), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 161 *(continued)*

Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development

Report of the Secretary-General (A/50/670)

Mr. Infante Villarreal (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I have the honour to address the General Assembly on agenda item 161, "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development". My delegation wishes to express its gratitude for the report of the Summit and for the report submitted by the Secretary-General on the item before us today.

The World Summit for Social Development, which was held in the city of Copenhagen last March, was a meeting of particular historic significance because, at the invitation of the United Nations and thanks to the warm welcome extended by the Government of Denmark, Heads of State and Government met for the first time in order to acknowledge the importance of social development and the well-being of humankind and to give the highest priority to those objectives in the light of the urgent need to solve severe social problems, in particular poverty, unemployment and social marginalization.

Clearly, this was a Summit of hope, commitment and action, as was expressed in the far-reaching Declaration and Programme of Action.

The Heads of State or Government declared that they would advocate a political, economic, ethical and spiritual vision of social development based on human dignity, and they committed themselves to establishing a framework for action aimed, *inter alia*, at placing the human person at the centre of development and at orienting the economic system towards more effectively satisfying human needs. They also recognized the primary responsibility of States in achieving the goals of social development, as well as the need for international cooperation.

In addressing the General Assembly in September 1994, the President of Colombia, Ernesto Samper, spoke of the opportunity then presenting itself to resume the postponed task of building a new global system based on solidarity and the genuine quest for better living conditions for all. Thus, with the focus on the human

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one month of the date of the meeting*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, Room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

person, poverty would be eradicated and social justice would be achieved. He expressed the need for a recommitment to people in order to prevent the social costs of economic changes from leading to the undoing of achievements made in the sphere of political consolidation. He proposed the need for an alternative development model which, as a model for the South, would have as its ultimate objective the creation of a new citizen — a more economically productive, more politically participatory and more socially committed citizen.

These are the principal guidelines followed by the Government of Colombia in the design and formulation of our development plan, which we refer to as the "social leap", whose purpose is to achieve the modernization of the productive structures of the country and to lend legitimacy to the new economic blueprint through genuine proposals for social development, based on the concepts of social solidarity and good governance.

We have designed an internal social-solidarity network, which is currently giving direct and specific support to the sectors of the population most vulnerable to poverty, such as mothers who are heads of household, elderly peasants in remote areas, young people and undernourished children.

The criteria, principles and objectives of the social-development plan pursued by the present Administration of my country fully coincide with those laid down by the Copenhagen Summit. Immediately after the conclusion of the Summit, the Colombian Government, as an initial step, circulated to all national entities related to the social sector the texts of the Declaration and Programme of Action, instructing them to give them priority consideration in the design, elaboration and implementation of their policies and programmes.

Next January, with the cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme and the Italian Government, a national meeting of those entities will take place in order to coordinate efficiently the implementation of, and provide timely follow-up to, the conclusions and commitments adopted by the Heads of State and the recommendations of the Programme of Action. In addition, an instructional presentation will be made to facilitate the implementation of the Copenhagen Programme of Action in the country.

At the regional level, Colombia has actively participated in the meetings convened by the Rio Group meeting of Ministers responsible for social development held in Buenos Aires on 4 and 5 May 1995, and the meeting of technical personnel in the social sphere held in Quito from 15 to 17 November.

At the Buenos Aires meeting, in addition to reaffirming the political will of the various Governments to fulfil the commitments of the Summit, we undertook, *inter alia*, to establish regional agreements to achieve national goals through the momentum of permanent mechanisms for horizontal cooperation.

Colombia welcomes the outcome of the Quito meeting. We welcome the Programme of Regional Cooperation for Social Development and the subprogrammes for Regional Technical Cooperation and Horizontal Cooperation. We wish to renew our firm determination to cooperate with the follow-up mechanism of the Regional Programme, and we fully agree with the set of recommendations formulated by the technical personnel in the social sphere on that occasion.

The United Nations is called upon to play a fundamental role in the follow-up to the implementation of the results of the Summit. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, each within its own mandates and competence, as well as the Commission for Social Development, will need to work in coordination in this regard. Expansion of the membership of the Commission and a greater frequency and duration of meetings have become necessary in the light of the new tasks the Commission must face as a result of the outcome of the Copenhagen Summit: it must now play a central role in the periodic review of items related to the follow-up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.

In this context, the Commission should also consider convening a meeting of high-level representatives in 1997 to study matters and policies related to social development.

The Bretton Woods institutions, for their part, should become more actively involved in the implementation of and follow-up to the Summit and, to that end, should step up their cooperation with other parts of the United Nations system.

The implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development calls for an integrated approach to social development and the promotion and strengthening of international cooperation. Colombia, aware that social development is the responsibility of each country, will continue to implement vigorous, decisive and wide-ranging policies that are consistent with the commitments it made at Copenhagen. This is the fruit of our profound conviction that we need to focus on the human being as the centre of development. The eradication of poverty, creation of productive employment, social integration and attention to the basic needs of society will remain the central thrust of our Government's action, with a view to achieving genuine social progress and improving the human condition, on the basis of full participation by all.

Mr. Muthaura (Kenya): My delegation wishes to address certain priority areas that require action in regard to the implementation of the outcome of the Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development.

Poverty continues to be the root cause of many ills in society, despite the high level of prosperity achieved by parts of the world community in the twentieth century. Appropriate actions are therefore required to address the effects of poverty, both in developing and developed countries. Poverty, which manifests itself in many ways, should be tackled in an integrated manner, as economic development and social progress are interrelated. The holding of the United Nations World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in March 1995 was a milestone in the realization that poverty, unemployment and social disintegration require an internationally coordinated strategy for their eradication and for the achievement of sustainable development.

We welcome the outcome of the Copenhagen Summit and, in particular, the commitment by world leaders to eradicate poverty worldwide through decisive national and international actions. This, together with the decisions taken at the related United Nations Conferences on the environment, population and women, have reinforced the resolve of the international community to combat poverty.

The eradication of poverty is primarily the responsibility of national Governments and, more importantly, depends on their ability to mobilize the grass-root involvement of communities in the initiation and execution of income-generating programmes. These efforts will, however, have limited impact without the support of the international community, as provided in Commitment 10 of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. Timely and effective actions by the international community and the United Nations are therefore crucial requirements.

It is encouraging to note in the report (A/50/670) of the Secretary-General that the Administrative Committee on Coordination, at its October 1995 session, considered necessary measures to be taken by the United Nations system. It is imperative that the United Nations provide effective and concerted support for national programmes consistent with the commitments and plans of action emanating from the Copenhagen Summit and the related United Nations conferences. To this end, we hope the inter-agency task forces that have been organized around the three interrelated themes — namely, first, the enabling environment for social and economic development, secondly, employment and sustainable livelihoods and, thirdly, basic social services for all — will provide the necessary impetus for programme implementation at the country level. We are also encouraged by the initiatives taken so far by the various bodies of the United Nations towards prioritization of poverty eradication in their programmes. We are looking forward to a healthy and enhanced complementarity between national strategies and the priorities of the United Nations bodies and agencies.

Because of the importance we attach to national responsibility in poverty eradication, Kenya, in addition to implementing far-reaching macroeconomic adjustment programmes, has designed a package of short-term and long-term plans regarding social dimensions of development programmes that target the poor and other vulnerable groups. The programmes and projects currently under implementation encompass five major themes: welfare and basic services, skills development, employment and job creation, rural development and environmental conservation.

The welfare and basic-service programmes cover, among other things, immunization and the provision of essential drugs in health centres, nutritional support programmes for children under five years and for expectant and lactating mothers, urban-settlement upgrading programmes to improve living and working conditions in urban slums and skills development through technical training and educational support measures, including provision of textbooks and school bursaries for the poor. Employment creation is being supported by the development of the informal sector and micro-enterprises, as well as small-scale irrigation schemes, other land-reclamation projects and rural access roads. Environmental conservation is being addressed through various measures, including the development of fuel-efficient wood stoves, agroforestry and control of soil erosion.

To ensure successful implementation of these programmes, the Government has established committees from the grass root to the national level comprising Government officials and a wide representation of the local communities and non-governmental organizations and also open to donor-community representation.

While we agree that the national action programmes are fundamental, the implementation of the outcome of the Social Summit will not achieve the desired results without assured and substantial international support. We are concerned that donor resources for development support have been steadily declining in the past few years and the situation continues to worsen despite the commitments made during the Copenhagen Social Summit and other related recent United Nations conferences. Political will and the honouring of international commitments would greatly enhance the mobilization of additional resources to facilitate the achievement of the consensus goals on the reduction and elimination of poverty and the promotion of productive employment.

Mr. Wang (China) *(interpretation from Chinese)*: The World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen in March this year is an important conference of pioneering significance in the field of social development in the history of the United Nations. At the conference, leaders of all countries made solemn commitments on the eradication of poverty, expansion of productive employment and enhancement of social integration, which are fundamental issues bearing on the social development of all countries. The Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the conference offer a number of recommendations and proposals to address these issues. Now the task facing us is to carry out in real earnest the follow-up to the Summit.

The Secretary-General, in his report on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, laid down the basic framework for the work of the whole United Nations system, and put forward some recommendations on the implementation and coordination of follow-up actions by various bodies, such as that the follow-up should be innovative and lead to practical results; that the situation of the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, should be taken into full account; that funds should be mobilized through various channels; and that there should be an integrated follow-up to the Cairo, Copenhagen and Beijing conferences to mount a concerted attack on poverty. We appreciate these recommendations.

We are of the view that the following should be particularly emphasized in the follow-up to the Summit:

First, a favourable environment of peace should be created. President Jiang Zemin of China made this very good point on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations:

> "Peace is the primary necessity of the world's people. Without peace, there can be no development to speak of".

I believe that this opinion is shared by all the people in the world. All countries should cherish peace and redouble their efforts to maintain international peace.

Second, economic development and all-round social progress should be vigorously promoted. Eradication of poverty, expansion of employment and enhancement of social integration are the three core issues of the Summit. There are now still more than 1 billion people living in poverty in the world, which is seriously hampering social development and progress. The international community and the Governments of all countries should take measures to eradicate poverty and promote economic development. In this process, attention should be given to balanced development of education, culture, social security and health care as well as the rational use of resources so as to ensure comprehensive and sustainable social development.

Third, the national conditions of each country should be respected and we must ensure that the road to development of each country is chosen independently by its own people. No country has exactly the same national conditions and levels of development as another country. The people of each country have the right to choose their road of development and work out their development programmes and priorities in the light of their national conditions. No country should impose its ideology and development models on other countries.

Fourth, international cooperation should be vigorously expanded on the basis of mutual benefit for common development. Each country has its own strong points and advantages. It is therefore undesirable either to underestimate or overestimate one's capabilities. Effective international cooperation should be engaged in to learn from each other's strong points and make up each other's deficiencies, thus promoting common development.

Fifth, social development should be promoted on a global scale, and the developed countries should take greater responsibilities for this. At present, there is a huge gap between the developing and the developed countries in terms of wealth. The developed countries enjoy advantages in terms of capital, technology and trade. In order to promote social development and progress on a global scale, the developed countries should adopt measures in terms of capital, technology transfer, reduction and remission of debt, and trade in support of the developing countries and should set a clear timetable to this end. The developed countries should increase rather than reduce their assistance to the developing countries. Helping the developing countries overcome poverty and promote their development will eventually facilitate the further development of the developed countries.

Sixth, the United Nations system should play a greater role in promoting the effective implementation of the follow-up. Since the Summit, the United Nations system has done some useful work in implementing the follow-up to it. We are of the view that in this process its role should be further strengthened. The United Nations should implement the follow-up and promote the social development of Member States by increasing resources and strengthening mechanisms. The General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development should place the implementation of the follow-up at the top of their agenda so that constant assessments can be made to ensure timely improvement. At the same time, efforts should be made to ensure sound coordination in the implementation of the follow-up by the whole United Nations system so as to give full play to the potential and role of all bodies in this regard.

The Chinese Government attaches great importance to social development. It actively supported and participated in the Summit as well as the preparatory work, and will work hard to implement the follow-up to the Summit. In his letter of reply to the Secretary-General on 20 October 1995, Premier Li Peng of the State Council of China designated China's focal point with the Secretariat and pointed out that United

Nations activities pertaining to social development should persevere in the direction set forth at the Summit.

The Chinese Government is now formulating and will implement the ninth Five-Year Plan for national economic and social development and the Social Development Plan from 1996 to 2010. In recent years, China has made remarkable progress in promoting economic development and social progress. Particularly in eradicating poverty, China has launched a large-scale poverty-relief campaign in a planned and organized manner throughout the country, greatly increased capital input and formulated preferential policies to this end, which has helped further reduce the poverty-stricken population in the country. We are determined to eradicate absolute poverty throughout China by the end of this century. In spite of the difficulties in the field of social development, the Chinese Government is determined to achieve the objectives set forth at the Summit. While further promoting our own social development, we are ready to make contributions to global social development and a future of prosperity and happiness for all mankind.

Mr. Mabilangan (Philippines): I am speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The 1990s have ushered in a new and perceptive interest in social development, brought about, no doubt, by the sweeping changes in the world ethno-social and political situation, and abetted in no small measure by environmental concerns. Unrelenting poverty, especially among debt-strapped developing countries; persistent and widespread unemployment; exploding population growth; an alarmingly depleted physical environment; a growing technological and economic gap between the developed countries and the poorer countries of the third world — all these and more have engendered a sense of insecurity and uncertainty leading to a re-examination of both material and moral values.

As we approach the end of the millennium, we begin to see the dawning of a new era and the withering away of the old order. There is a global realization that, in spite of all the changes occurring in the world today, the needs of people have become a priority issue and have thus placed the human person in the centre of development, becoming both the *raison d'etre* and the beneficiary.

Underpinning this approach is the right to development, which is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized. The equality of opportunity for development is a prerogative of all nations, rich and poor, and of individuals who make up these nations.

The debate in the United Nations has focused on national development as a prerequisite to peace. And quite rightly so, for when people are driven to desperation by want and misery, they will brook no hindrance to the satisfaction of their basic human needs. Unrelenting poverty is the most serious problem facing humankind today. For developing countries, it is aggravated by their debt burden, widespread unemployment, a deepening environmental crisis, the lack of adequate international aid and trade deterioration due to protectionism. Of the more than 5.6 billion people on this planet, more than 1.3 billion, or one fifth, are considered absolutely poor. According to a recent report of the World Bank, these are people, so limited by malnutrition, illiteracy, disease, squalid surroundings, high infant mortality and low life expectancy as to be beneath any reasonable definition of human decency. We strongly believe that international cooperation is essential to the easing of poverty. We reiterate the need for the international community, including the international financial institutions, to continue exploring ways of implementing additional and innovative measures to alleviate substantially the debt burdens of developing countries, in particular of the highly indebted, low-income countries. The mobilization of new and additional financial resources that are both adequate and predictable are also needed in order to implement the commitments made in Copenhagen towards the eradication of poverty through sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

Towards this end, we should strive to fulfil the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance (ODA) and 0.15 per cent to the least developed countries as soon as possible and increase the share of funding for social development programmes commensurate with the scope and scale of activities required to achieve the objectives and goals of the Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action. We reiterate the need for a mutual understanding between developed and developing country partners to allocate 20 per cent of ODA and 20 per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes. In our efforts towards the eradication of poverty, priority should be given to Africa, the low-income countries in Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and the least developed countries. We must, however, obviate the adverse effects of structural adjustment through a troika of social development goals: eradication of poverty; the generation of productive employment; and the enhancement of social integration. However, as many countries, and the United Nations itself, have realized, economic development by itself is not enough. Raising the income of the nation in general is not enough. A larger gross national product does not necessarily mean a better life for the individual citizen. A bigger economy by itself does not satisfy the individual person's aspirations for human fulfilment.

Indeed, economic growth cannot be sustained for long unless the individual citizen and the individual community have a stake in that growth and unless they are mobilized and empowered to take an active part in the process of development. For this to materialize, the social backbone and foundation of the common person and, in a larger sense, the community, must be strongly fortified with a solid base. Economic growth would be meaningless to the individual who does not share in its benefits or whose community is destroyed by it. Development would be empty for a person who is deprived of his individual rights and freedoms. A society cannot find fulfilment in growth — indeed the development process itself is severely hampered — if it does not take adequate care of its vulnerable groups: women, migrant workers, children, indigenous groups, the disabled, displaced persons and refugees. Development cannot be sustained unless the nurturing qualities of the natural environment are conserved for future generations.

Care for the citizen's fulfilment as a human being, for his community and the totality of society cannot wait. It cannot wait for total peace to be achieved or for a certain level of development to be attained. All this — peace, development and the improvement of the quality of society and human life — must proceed simultaneously.

Targets should be realistic in the areas where qualitative data could be obtained, specifically in the areas of poverty and unemployment. A clear correlation between these targets and commitments undertaken, both nationally and internationally, would facilitate a review of the follow-up. To promote nationally and internationally a favourable political and legal environment for social development, there must be transparency and accountability in international economic and political decision-making; respect for all human rights and democratic principles, pluralism and international law, as well as realization of the right to development through the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development.

Development is not just an individual prerogative. It is a right that accrues equally to both individuals and nations.

Some of these aspects were adequately addressed during the World Summit for Social Development, in Copenhagen, which produced a comprehensive and concrete Programme of Action to ensure that the problems being faced by the world today will not spill over into the next century or that there will at least be an improvement by the early part of that era. We call upon States to fulfil the commitments of the Heads of State and Government to a political, economic, ethical and spiritual vision for social development based on human dignity, human rights, equality, respect, peace, democracy, mutual responsibility, cooperation and full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of peoples.

It is in this regard that the Group of 77 and China welcome with great enthusiasm the draft resolution on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. In reaffirming the need for an integrated and coordinated follow-up to Copenhagen, the Group of 77 and China look to the focal, functional role of the Commission for Social Development, with overall guidance and monitoring by the Economic and Social Council.

In this respect, we welcome the adoption of a 1996 substantive theme for the Commission for Social Development that hinges on the eradication of poverty through the formulation of integrated strategies and actions to meet the basic human needs of all and to promote self-reliance and community-based initiatives. The Commission is a logical actor in the implementation and follow-up of Social Summit commitments. In this regard, we appeal to the Member States to strengthen the Commission in order to ensure the proper and appropriate implementation of Summit commitments.

Finally, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and of the Philippine Government, I wish to reiterate our profound appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Denmark for hosting the World Summit for Social Development.

Mr. Mongbe (Benin) (*interpretation from French*): The delegation of Benin is not simply bowing to tradition by joining previous speakers in paying a friendly and well-deserved tribute to Ambassador Juan Somavía of Chile, the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee and the Main Committee of the World Summit for Social Development, held last March in Copenhagen, the lovely capital of Denmark.

I take this opportunity to renew my delegation's sincere congratulations to the people and Government of Denmark on the warm hospitality with which they welcomed representatives to Copenhagen and the high-quality organization of work, which led to a successful outcome.

As the head of the Benin delegation to the Copenhagen Summit stated,

> "At the end of the twentieth century, the challenges facing our societies in the North and the South, in the developed and the developing countries alike, challenges which are causing the deepest concern are: environmental degradation, the high rate of unemployment, increased numbers of poor, the breakdown of social structures and the growth of violence and insecurity."

He went on to say, following a line which, happily, that historic meeting eventually took:

> "Our concerns, which we be share, but which differ in their intensity, call for a new form of international cooperation, a genuine partnership, a new compact of solidarity to struggle against poverty, create productive jobs, reduce unemployment or under-employment and strengthen social integration."

My delegation believes that the Copenhagen Summit has a historic significance, since it was the first time a meeting at such a high level and on the global scale had mobilized and focused international opinion and that of the world's leaders on a vital question — the struggle against poverty and social exclusion — and taken decisions designed to promote social progress and justice and to improve conditions of life.

Copenhagen made it clear that, while it celebrates the triumph of the democratic system, the international community is witnessing the spread — like an epidemic — of the scourges of poverty, unemployment and social disintegration. The essential struggle against these scourges requires heightened cooperation in support of national strategies. The fundamental consensus to which my delegation attaches great importance, is that the success of the chosen strategies will depend on the premise that the human individual is at the centre of social and economic development. It will be understood that the corollary is the elimination of poverty, which in turn depends on economic growth and States adopting policies based on a readiness to ensure a better distribution of wealth.

Another important achievement of the World Summit for Social Development was the reaffirmation of the right to development, which had only recently been defined in the Vienna Declaration on human rights. This right must henceforth be considered a basic right, without which the others are mere illusions.

Investment in social development is extremely expensive. In order to meet their Copenhagen commitments, the developing countries, while making their own efforts, cannot do without the financial support of the developed world. This support must come in many forms, including the reduction — or even cancellation — of their foreign debt and an increase in official development assistance, which means that the developed countries must keep their promise to devote at least 0.7 per cent of their gross national product to official development assistance. It must be acknowledged that four of them — Norway, Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands — have done so, and that France is close to the target.

In addition, there must be effective implementation of the 20:20 compact whereby the developed countries and the developing countries concerned would devote their efforts to developing basic social services; the national capacities of the developing countries must be strengthened; the products of the developing countries, and particularly of the least-developed countries must have better access to the markets of the developed countries; an appropriate programme must be developed to improve awareness in the scientific and technological community; technology must be transferred to the developing countries in the best possible conditions, as an essential element in the search for sustainable development in those countries; equity and equality between men and women as they participate in development must be respected; and education and culture for all — for women in particular — must be promoted.

These, in summary, are the main commitments that our Heads of State and Government entered into and the actions that they advocated at their historic meeting in Copenhagen. Now we must move from the stage of reflection and concepts to the implementation of commitments, as the follow-up to our decisions, and to evaluation of their results in an integrated approach, at both the national and the international levels.

It is not possible for States to do everything on their own. Local-development community associations, non-governmental organizations, civil society in general and the private sector must demonstrate independence and initiative in thought and in action. Likewise, more resources, by way of financial support and international assistance, must be devoted to developing countries, particularly the African and the least developed countries, as is rightly stressed in Commitment 7 of the Copenhagen Declaration.

The United Nations, which is an appropriate forum for discussion and implementation of projects, must adapt itself to change so that it may become a launching-pad for projects of international scope in the field of social development. It is on the basis of this kind of thinking that Commitment 10 stresses the need to strengthen the structure, resources and procedures of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organs. The competent functional commissions have a primary role to play in examining and evaluating the results of the Summit. This job must be done by the Economic and Social Council, and the conclusions must be submitted to the General Assembly.

It is important to recall that, in chapter V, the Programme of Action says that the Economic and Social Council

> "should be invited to review the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission for Social Development, including considerations of the strengthening of the Commission, taking into account the need for synergy with other related commissions and conference follow-up" *(A/CONF.166/9, annex II, chap. V, p. 87, para. 95 (f))*.

My delegation notes with satisfaction that several initiatives aimed at promoting greater participation by the private sector and the representatives of civil society at sessions of the Commission for Social Development are under consideration and may be implemented at the special session in 1996, on the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council. Such initiatives help to strengthen that subsidiary organ, which is well equipped to ensure follow-up to the Summit for Social Development.

While stressing the irreplaceable follow-up role of the Commission for Social Development, the Summit also recognized the specific role of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the follow-up with respect to appropriate aspects of the Declaration and Programme of Action, as is stressed in chapter V of the Programme of Action.

On behalf of my delegation, I welcome the various initiatives undertaken through the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, all of which are designed to help developing countries to adopt effective measures for the elimination of poverty.

It would be unfair not to mention other organs and programmes — in particular, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the United Nations Environment Programme — that are also involved in the initiation of activities that will help to translate into action the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, as is emphasized in the Secretary-General's report (A/50/670).

International financial institutions should take account of the social consequences for developing countries — particularly the most vulnerable of them — of the fiscal policies of structural adjustment programmes. Indeed, what would be our countries' chances of overcoming the problems of poverty, unemployment — including the absence of jobs for young graduates — and social disintegration without appreciable support from external resources and without effective coordination of international action through the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions?

The Secretary-General's report describes the action begun by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in the struggle against poverty and the activities of the International Labour Organization, which proposes to help Governments and social partners in formulating national strategies aimed at achieving full employment and creating high-quality jobs.

All of this, together with the activities that are about to be launched by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Health Organization, form the framework of the follow-up to the Copenhagen Summit and will contribute to the elimination of poverty.

The three United Nations Headquarters departments dealing with the economic and social sectors have a technical-support and coordinating role to play to enhance the effectiveness of the action of the competent intergovernmental organs: the Commission for Social Development, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

To that end, the delegation of Benin reaffirms its support for the following recommendations, among others, of the Summit: that the General Assembly should hold a special session in the year 2000 to review and appraise implementation of the outcome of the Summit; that the General Assembly should include in its agenda each year, beginning in 1995, the question of the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development; that in 1996 the General Assembly should review the effectiveness of the steps taken within the framework of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty; that the General Assembly at its fiftieth session — its current session — should declare the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty.

My delegation views the Copenhagen Summit as the cornerstone of international consensus on the multidimensional nature of social development. Its outcome must be taken into account in the elaboration, now under way, of the Agenda for Development. The same applies to the consensus achieved at other, similar, meetings under the auspices of the United Nations.

It would be a pity if the hopes, born at Copenhagen, of turning economic growth into a means of increasing the well-being of all — in particular, women, children, young people, the disabled and other vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginal groups — were to sink in interminable debates at our meetings or in unproductive studies of the administrative structures of our Organization.

It is high time to move to coordinated action. It is necessary to build on solid foundations a new society in which everybody, rich and poor, and developed and developing countries can get down to implementing the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development — in other words, to following the strategies that have been designed to deal successfully with the great problems besetting mankind: first and foremost, underemployment, exclusion and social disintegration.

Before concluding my statement, I should like to say a few words about Benin's efforts in the field of social development through the implacable struggle against the hideous scourge of poverty. For years now — especially since 1990 — the Government of Benin has been progressively putting a coherent policy of social development in place by devoting 30 to 40 per cent of the national budget to social sectors. Benin supports the view that all strata of society should have access to essential social services. This implies the necessity of devoting new resources to the financing of such a policy.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry said:

> "Nothing that concerns man can be counted or measured."

That is why, with a view to financing the Programme of Action, Benin deemed it beneficial and necessary to set up, even before the Summit was held, its Fund for Support of Social Action and its National Fund of Solidarity for Employment.

Other actions corresponding to national commitments in the framework of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action are currently being devised. They will help Benin to win its bid for the elimination of poverty and the creation of productive employment, with a view to securing full employment and social integration.

Mr. Sengwe (Zimbabwe): My delegation is pleased that the Assembly is responding to the call from the Copenhagen Summit to place the outcome of that historic meeting high on the agenda of the international community.

I also wish to thank the Secretary-General for his most enlightening report, "Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development" (A/50/670).

We met at Copenhagen impelled by the need to alleviate human suffering. There, we all heard the heart-rending chronicles of facts and figures that depicted the wretchedness and unhappiness of an unacceptably high percentage of the human race. For this generation, which has known and experienced unprecedented affluence, it is most disquieting to try and live with the fact that a whole 20 per cent of the world's population today lives in abject poverty. It comes as no surprise, therefore, that the source of conflicts, armed or unarmed, has shifted towards economic, social and environmental issues, with more conflicts now arising within States than between or among them. The Summit at Copenhagen was an acknowledgement that social disintegration could be contained only by focusing on the human being and the eradication of poverty.

The core issues of the Social Summit — poverty alleviation, employment generation and social integration — should continue to be our main focus in the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. Implementation should take a holistic approach. Meaningful and sustainable social development cannot be achieved by implementing sector policies independently. The success of the Copenhagen Commitments will require the joint effort of Governments and grassroots and non-governmental organizations working in partnership towards that same objective.

Zimbabwe realizes that the implementation of the goals of the Social Summit is first and foremost a national responsibility and a priority. For us in Zimbabwe, the post-independence era has been marked by a rapid expansion in the provision of basic social services, particularly health, health care and education facilities, to all. Furthermore, we have striven to promote social integration by establishing country-wide administrative structures in order to achieve grassroots participation and to widen the decision-making base. With over 70 per cent of the population living on the land, the Government embarked on a phased resettlement programme based on land acquisition and redistribution to improve the peasant's and rural farmer's access to productive land and reduce overuse of land resources, thus protecting the environment.

In order to address the plight of the vulnerable groups — especially women, who constitute 50 per cent of the population — the Government continues to pay particular attention to the enhancement of the status of women. Several laws have been passed to ensure that women have equal access to the country's resources. In line with the Beijing Declaration and Programme of Action, the Government of Zimbabwe is also working on inheritance laws to ensure that women are treated as equals. In Zimbabwe we believe that the Summit Programme of Action cannot be implemented without paying particular attention to the role and contribution of women to social progress.

The Zimbabwe Government recently launched a poverty alleviation action programme, which not only includes the present public-assistance programme but also seeks to concentrate its efforts on the total eradication of the root causes of poverty in our society. We are, however, appealing to the international community to complement our efforts. Since economic and social development are inextricably linked, we have embarked on an economic reform programme, removing all the controls that were hampering economic performance and liberalizing the market to bring about competition and expand the productive base.

The fistful of measures being taken by the Government of Zimbabwe classically typify the courageous steps being taken by developing countries to try to improve their lot. Our national Governments, private sectors and other social sectors are pooling their resources in order to strengthen our national capacities for social development. Without trivializing the importance and impact of these domestic and sometimes subregional measures, we wish to make a clarion call to the international community to help create an enabling international environment.

The debt crisis, falling terms of trade for commodities, high tariffs for finished products, the harmful social effects of structural-adjustment programmes, and lack of resources and appropriate technology all constitute crushing burdens which, if not removed, will negate all our efforts to implement the Copenhagen Programme of Action. Substantial debt reduction is required to enable developing countries to implement the Summit goals. The Bretton Woods institutions, whose diagnoses and prescriptions have never been people-oriented, should explore ways of implementing additional measures to alleviate the debt burden of developing countries, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa. The Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action called upon the General Assembly to, *inter alia*, promote and strengthen the coordination of the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization at all levels with a view to ensuring the coherence of the activities of these entities.

The Copenhagen Summit also called upon the General Assembly to keep social development high on the agenda of the international community. Whilst we appreciate the fact that this very important subject has already found its way onto the agenda of this Assembly, we are disappointed that crucial departments and units within the United Nations system have not yet geared themselves to take appropriate action. Indeed, we note with great concern that departments such as the Department of Public Information and the Department for Development Support and Management Services, which are supposed to promote international awareness, mobilize resources and assist national Governments in capacity-building, are actually threatened with trimmed allocations in the proposed programme budget for the 1996-1997 biennium.

Following the recent global conferences, it is imperative that the United Nations system gear itself to spearhead and coordinate the international community's follow-up activities. In our view, the mandate of the Commission for Social Development has to be broadened and strengthened in order to monitor the implementation of the Programme of Action. By addressing issues of unemployment and poverty, the international community would be facilitating the maintenance of peace and security within and among States.

In the ongoing exercise to reform and strengthen the United Nations system, it is imperative that we take into account the obligations we placed on the Organization at the recent global conferences. The reform process should not simply beautify the Organization and its structures at the expense of the poor of the world.

In Copenhagen, interested developing and developed countries were called upon to implement the "20/20 compact". Zimbabwe regards the implementation of this compact as crucial to the success of the Programme of Action. The realization of the vision of the 20/20 initiative and of the goals it stands for could help end the worst physical manifestations of poverty and contribute to defusing the social time-bomb threatening world security.

Poverty transcends boundaries and knows no immigration laws. Social disintegration cannot be indefinitely contained within isolated suburbs, ghettos or national borders. It is therefore necessary for the international community to assist developing counties in setting up basic infrastructure for the provision of social services. We believe that it is the greatest tragedy of our time that exceedingly high levels of affluence within and among our societies exist side by side with abject poverty. We do not share the perception that development is a zero-sum game in which the success of the North can be achieved only at the expense of the South or that the progress and happiness of one part of humanity can be possible only when the other part is socially and economically deprived.

We believe that social development will be meaningful and durable if it involves people from all spheres. Let us not allow the lofty goals of the social Summit to become meaningless to the world's poor. By the year 2000, when we assess our progress, we must not find ourselves guilty of having worsened the situation of the world's poor. Copenhagen must be the beginning, not the end.

Mr. Khryskov (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): It is symbolic that the World Summit for Social Development was held in the golden jubilee year of the United Nations, our universal organization, one of whose primary purposes as stated in the preamble to the Charter is to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

Now that the cold war is history, there is a unique opportunity for constructive interaction among States to solve such critical problems as social problems. As we pursue the path of cooperation, we become increasingly convinced that the domestic social problems of any country can spill over national borders and have grave negative effects on the world situation, slowing the progress of mankind.

That is why Russia actively supported the convening of the World Summit for Social Development at Copenhagen and why we believe that the results of the Summit can and must give a mighty impetus to the development of international cooperation in the social field. The main task before us today is to ensure the implementation of the final documents of the Summit — the Declaration and Programme of Action — so that the decisions of the conference will not turn out to be nothing more than good intentions expressed on paper. In that connection, we believe that the Summit documents are on the whole sufficiently specific and well balanced, and that they reflect the interests of all groups of States, including those with economies in transition.

Mr. Kulla (Albania), Vice-President, took the Chair.

As the Declaration notes, social development and social justice are essential for the maintenance of peace and security within States and in relations between them. By the same token, social development and social justice cannot be achieved in the absence of peace and security and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. This most important interdependence was recognized 50 years ago in the United Nations Charter; since then it has lost none of its timeliness, but has rather become more evident.

I wish to turn to some of the social problems whose solution depends on measures at the national level. Having undertaken radical political and economic reforms affecting millions of people, Russia continues to attach primary importance to the solution of social problems through finding resources and ways and means to ensure respect for fundamental social rights. A Commission on questions relating to women, the family and demographics has been established in the office of the President of the Russian Federation, and the Parliament has committees on social policy, labour, social assistance and the problems of women, the family and young people, which are preparing standards for national policy in these areas. With the participation of representatives of the constituent parts of the Federation, the Government of the Russian Federation has established an interdepartmental council on questions relating to social development. Our Government has decided to create a national body tasked with contributing to the implementation in Russia of the objectives of the Declaration and Programme of Action. We call on all States to cooperate in the solution of social problems.

At these initial stages in our reforms, the most urgent tasks are to prevent massive unemployment and to support socially unprotected segments of the population and help them adapt to market conditions.

The first signs of economic recovery and stabilization in Russia are already apparent. The task of structural reform is now in the forefront. An intensive process of privatization is under way, and the market economy is growing increasingly visible in Russia. It is clear that the success of democratic reforms in countries that have embarked on a process of political, economic and social reform will determine not only their own future, but the face of the world community of the twenty-first century.

More energetic action by the international community to support the countries with transitional economies and their integration into the world market could really speed up the global processes of democratic change. Increased attention by the United Nations to the problems of countries with transitional economies would be fully in keeping with the realities of our day.

With a view to the solution of these problems, United Nations activities must also become more focused and more dynamic so as to translate the decisions of the Summit for Social Development into concrete action. The United Nations must be the central organ of the international community for the taking of decisions aimed not only at the maintenance of peace and international security, but also at the solution of problems of social security.

The Commission for Social Development, to our way of thinking, must play an important role in the implementation of the decisions taken at the Summit, and to that end it must be supported in every way. However, all changes in the mandate and terms of reference of the Commission must take into account available budget appropriations and must be achieved through the reallocation of existing resources.

We believe the United Nations specialized agencies should speed up the designing of concrete programmes, in accordance with the decisions of the Copenhagen Summit and based on the Declaration and Programme of Action, and that their implementation should be initiated without delay.

Not all questions linked to social problems must necessarily be considered at United Nations Headquarters. We believe that many regional organizations can play a key role in the social field if their activities are coordinated by the United Nations. The growing number and increasingly varied range of problems insistently call for the United Nations

Secretariat to become more effective in this field of activity.

Our delegation fully supports United Nations activities designed to strengthen the monitoring of the implementation of international plans and programmes of action and, in particular, the aims and tasks of social development reflected in the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, in the guiding principles of social-security policies and programmes intended to develop in the immediate future the guiding principles for the further planning and implementation of measures relating to young people, and in the International Plan of Action for the problems of aging, the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons and the standard rules for securing equal opportunities for the disabled.

In conclusion, I should like to stress once again that the Russian Federation supports the strengthening of the social dimension of international cooperation, with the leading role played by the United Nations, so as to give priority to the social problems within United Nations activities. We are ready to cooperate more with all countries to that end.

Mr. Maruyama (Japan): This year, which marks the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, has been an epoch-making one in the field of social development, as the recent Summit meeting succeeded in securing the commitments of Heads of State and Government to work towards the well-being of all people as a matter of the highest priority. I should like to pay special tribute to the Government and the people of Denmark for having hosted that Summit and bringing it to a truly successful conclusion. I should also like to express our deep appreciation to Ambassador Somavía, Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, the staff of the United Nations Secretariat and everyone else who participated in the Summit for their contributions.

In a world plagued by recurrent regional conflicts, poverty and social instability, it is imperative that the international community, working primarily through the United Nations, continue to make efforts to resolve these problems. Now that the pattern of North-South confrontation, which was a by-product of the cold war, is changing, we have a valuable opportunity to deal effectively with social problems that threaten the well-being of people in developed and developing countries alike. The fact that this opportunity was seized at the World Summit for Social Development is of historic importance.

The commitments that were made at the Summit must now be translated into action. Although those who participated in it agreed that the main responsibility for implementation of the policies, actions, and measures contained in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action rests with national Governments, it is also important to strengthen international cooperation, especially through the organizations of the United Nations and other multilateral institutions, in order to aid those national efforts. I wish now to turn to the role of the United Nations in implementing and following up the Summit at the intergovernmental level, a task that will be entrusted to a three-tiered mechanism consisting of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development.

The role that the Economic and Social Council will play is of critical importance, particularly in the area of coordination. In recent years, the United Nations has organized a series of major international conferences, and while each has had its own theme, there have also been issues of common concern. The United Nations system must, therefore, take an integrated and coordinated approach in following up these major international conferences, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions. To that end, the Council should ensure that the agendas and work programmes of the functional commissions are harmonized and coordinated.

The second point I would like to make is that follow-up requires close coordination among the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and with the Bretton Woods institutions, since the theme of the Summit has both social and development aspects, as was evident when issues such as structural-adjustment programmes were discussed. The Council has a critical role to play in ensuring such coordination.

The Commission for Social Development has the central role in following up the outcome of the Summit. Its mandate in the area of social policy is broad. It includes advising the Economic and Social Council on general social issues, but particularly on all matters not covered by specialized intergovernmental agencies, on practical measures that may be needed and on measures needed for the coordination of activities in this field. The Commission is therefore fully able, in the view of my delegation, to perform the roles it is expected to perform in following up the Summit. The issue before us, then, is not how its mandate should be changed but how to revitalize the activities it is carrying out under its current mandate, and the solution, in our view, is to establish more effective working methods and to formulate more focused agendas. It is also necessary for each Member State to nominate representatives who have experience and expertise in various areas of social development.

The General Assembly is likewise expected to play an important role in formulating policy and in guiding the implementation of the outcome of the Summit. We should establish an organized system that will enable it to tackle this issue vigorously — for example, by allocating it to a joint meeting of the Second and Third Committees held before the plenary session.

Supplementing the efforts of the three main bodies I have just mentioned, the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) is responsible for promoting systemwide coordination among the organizations of the United Nations system. It is therefore encouraging that ACC, in recognition of the importance of having the United Nations system follow up the recent global conferences, concurred with the proposal that coordinated support for country-level action be organized, in the first instance, around three interrelated themes: an enabling environment for social and economic development; employment and sustainable livelihood; and basic social services for all. In addition, the coordination of efforts to implement the outcome of the Summit at the country level should be pursued through the resident coordinator system.

The last point I wish to make relates to the role of non-governmental organizations. As was recognized at the Summit, social development cannot be achieved by government alone but requires the active participation of civil society as a whole, including the non-governmental organizations. Although these organizations have been making an important contribution in this area, principally by alerting the world to problems and then providing information on the implications of the possible policies that might be pursued to resolve them, my delegation believes that it is high time for the non-governmental organizations to participate more actively in the process of making decisions on such policies. An effective partnership must be formed between government and the main actors in civil society, including these organizations, in order to implement and follow up properly the Declaration and Programme of Action of the Summit. In working towards that end, in my own country, the non-governmental organization Forum of Japan on Social Development was established to follow up the Summit.

In concluding my statement, I wish to reiterate the importance of translating the commitments made at the Summit into concrete action. As Prime Minister Murayama announced in Copenhagen, Japan will continue to give priority to people-centred social development in its official development assistance activities, while working towards the common goal of fully implementing the Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit, in cooperation with like-minded countries, the United Nations system, and other concerned international organizations.

Mr. Kasanda (Zambia): It is an honour for me to speak on agenda item 161, "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development".

By deciding to convene the World Summit for Social Development at the level of Heads of State and Government, the United Nations was clearly manifesting the importance that the Organization attaches to the issue of social development. The response by an unprecedented number of Heads of State and Government to the invitation of the Secretary-General to attend the Summit is in turn a sign that world leaders are aware of how deep the crisis of social development has become.

I wish to recall that at the Summit, almost all the Heads of State and Government referred to the sense of pessimism and hopelessness around the world. The complex arena of problems discussed ranged from ethnic and religious violence to massive displacements of people; and from unemployment, poverty and crime to xenophobia and racial and gender discrimination.

The Summit recognized that while there has been progress in some areas of social and economic development, far too many people, particularly women and children, are vulnerable to stress and deprivation. Poverty, unemployment and social disintegration too often result in isolation, marginalization and violence. The insecurity that many people face about the future — their own and that of their children — is intensifying.

The Summit also recognized that within many societies, in both developed and developing countries, the gap between rich and poor has increased. Furthermore, despite the fact that some developing countries are growing rapidly, the gap between developed and many developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, has widened.

More than one billion people in the world live in abject poverty, and most of these go hungry every day. A large proportion, the majority of whom are women, have very limited access to income, resources, education, health care and nutrition, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries.

The economic and social marginalization of the poorest nations, and of the poorest within communities, continues unabated. For instance, in the past 10 years alone, falling commodity prices, rising military expenditures, poor or nil returns on investment, the debt crisis and some negative aspects of structural adjustment programmes have reduced the real incomes of most developing countries, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries. This situation has been accompanied by cuts in essential social services, which, in some instances, has meant health centres without drugs or doctors and schools without books or teachers.

For many millions of families in the poorest villages and for urban squatters, the consequences of these economic forces, over which they have absolutely no control, are destitution and desperation. The inevitable result has, of course, been social disintegration, ethnic tensions and political turbulence, such as we are experiencing in many parts of the world today. We are therefore gratified that the Summit, in one of its commitments, undertook to accelerate the economic, social and human-resource development of Africa and the least developed countries.

It is certainly not my intention to remind the General Assembly of the very grim picture painted of the world at Copenhagen. My intention was merely to bring to the fore the realities of the problems that the world community is confronted with, so that as we discuss the follow-up to this very important Conference, we do not lose sight of the overriding need not only to act, but to act expeditiously.

In discussing the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, my delegation is of the opinion that this will have to be at two complementary levels: the national and international levels.

At the national level, implementation is, as a matter of course, the primary responsibility of Governments, after determining their own national priorities. Successful implementation will, in the final analysis, be based upon careful consideration of the priority needs of each country. There cannot be a question of uniform implementation. National Governments, we believe, will have to come up with national programmes for action. These national programmes for action should, in our view, be the result of comprehensive consultations with institutions in the public, private and non-governmental sectors at the community, national, subregional, regional and international levels. These programmes should also be integrated into national development plans if they are to have a meaningful effect on development.

At the international level, the role of the United Nations system as a whole will be indispensable in effective implementation. The United Nations will have to play a key role in consolidating the commitments entered into by Member States and the international community in Copenhagen.

This effort by the United Nations should include facilitating the early development of specific implementation strategies, including the establishment or improvement of national mechanisms and measures to integrate the social dimension into all policies and programmes. In this effort, the role of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development will be of crucial importance.

In the Programme of Action of the Summit, the Economic and Social Council has been given the responsibility of overseeing system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Summit outcome and making recommendations in this regard. The Economic and Social Council has also been tasked to look at ways of strengthening its role, authority, structures, resources and processes, bringing specialized agencies into a closer working relationship with the Council. We agree that for effective implementation of the outcome of the Summit, a revitalized Economic and Social Council will have a major role to play.

We therefore look forward to the completion of consultations begun at the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council this year, in terms of reviewing the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission for Social Development. We certainly agree that the Commission will need to be strengthened to bring it into line with other functional commissions.

In addressing the question of the mandate of the Commission for Social Development, a number of issues will have to be addressed. For instance, what is to be the precise role of the Commission *vis-à-vis* its relationship to the Economic and Social Council? Should the Commission be kept as an expert body or should it perhaps be an intergovernmental body with an enlarged membership? What, indeed, should be its membership, taking into account the need for geographical representation?

We would like to put forward our initial views with regard to some of the points that have been raised. We believe that the primary responsibility for implementation of the follow-up to the Summit should be vested in the Commission for Social Development. The Economic and Social Council would then assume the responsibility of providing overall guidance to the Commission and of making the recommendation to the General Assembly. We also believe that the Commission should be an intergovernmental body, as opposed to being an expert body. The Commission, as an intergovernmental body, would have to examine ways of opening up to civil society. In this regard, the Commission could come up with a suitable mechanism for necessary input from experts and expert bodies. We believe that dialogue with civil society on matters of social development is an absolute necessity.

We also feel that the possibility of holding a high-level segment of the Commission for Social Development should be given serious consideration. For the successful implementation of the outcome of the Summit, massive political will at the national and international levels will be required. A high-level segment would therefore serve the purpose of sustaining political interest at a high level and also foster the necessary link between national implementation and international efforts to facilitate implementation.

We would also like a mechanism for establishing semi-permanent dialogue with the Bretton Woods institutions to be put in place. The role of these institutions in social development cannot be overemphasized. Perhaps this dialogue could take place on an annual basis, during the high-level segment of the Commission for Social Development.

We are very mindful of the fact that issues of social development do not have an agency giving them specific focus in terms of implementation. We therefore wonder whether it would not be beneficial to designate the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as the lead agency in terms of implementation. The Commission for Social Development would then be the focal point in terms of intergovernmental policy direction. We believe that it is certainly within the General Assembly's mandate to effect these changes.

Having said that, it would perhaps be prudent to hold a high- level segment of the Commission during 1996 so that these and other issues could be discussed in a substantive manner in order that the General Assembly could take firm decisions at the fifty-first session.

We consider it important that a framework for international cooperation be developed in the context of An Agenda for Development in order to ensure the integrated and comprehensive implementation, follow-up and assessment of the outcome of the Summit. We shall, however, reserve our position in relation to the strengthening of the capacity of the system to support an integrated, effective follow-up to the Summit as part of the overall effort to ensure the coordinated implementation of the results of the series of recent conferences. We would like to see how these ideas develop and then assess how, in fact, they will facilitate implementation.

Let me conclude by saying that the success of the World Summit for Social Development will be determined by the extent to which the commitments made at Copenhagen are achieved. The goals of the Social Summit must therefore be given the highest priority, both now and into the twenty-first century.

Mr. Berrocal Soto (Costa Rica) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I shall begin by stating the obvious: the World Summit for Social Development, held in March of this year in the city of Copenhagen, constitutes one of the most important events of our times and is surely an authentic milestone in the history of the United Nations. In the future — and I am sure time will prove us right — people will talk about before Copenhagen and after.

Established in the Declaration and Programme of Action are the deep interrelation and the interdependence between the results of the Social Summit and the previous agreements of the World Summit for Children, held in New York in 1990, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and its Agenda 21, the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in 1993, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Barbados in 1994, and the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994. The World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in September 1995, constituted another ratification of that interlinkage and the scope of the conceptual and programmatic interrelation between the Copenhagen World Summit and all of those important earlier endeavours of the United Nations.

In this way, and because of the importance and intrinsic worth of the issues addressed and their substantive and programmatic scope, the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme Action — in particular, the 10 Commitments — have been taking shape and cohering like an all-encompassing umbrella that coordinates a process of fundamental definitions that, in the 1990s, from different thematic angles and action-oriented points of view, all place the issue of social development on the international agenda at the end of the twentieth century as a primary and essential theme. In this way the system and States Members of the United Nations have gained substantially, but it is the nations, men and women from all regions — North, South, East and West — that have gained the most.

More than 100 Presidents and Heads of States and Government — 117 to be precise — together reaffirmed and ratified in the city of Copenhagen an undeniable and imperative truth of our times. Now it is up to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, in its consideration of item 161 of the agenda, to take decisions and move ahead with determination and firmness in concrete and operational terms, to transform the concepts and commitments of the Declaration and Programme of Action of the Social Summit into real and tangible deeds.

This should be done with the full and active cooperation of the United Nations system and its Member States, and as part of an effort which must be international and, at the same time, regional and national and must involve both the public and private sectors and the rest of civil society.

We cannot recognize the significance of this important process and, at the same time, the critical importance of the Social Summit without paying a well-deserved tribute to Ambassador Juan Somavia of Chile, in his capacity as Chairman of the Preparatory Committee and Chairman of the Main Committee of the Copenhagen Summit. The fact that we are now celebrating the undeniable success of the United Nations and of its Member States is largely due to the extraordinary managerial and negotiating skills of Ambassador Somavia. Furthermore, we should recognize and pay tribute to the sense of commitment, the determination and the organizational capacity of the Government of Denmark and its authorities, a sense of commitment and a determination which, as we have seen subsequent to the Summit, go beyond the organization of the Social Summit itself and are reflected in its principal agreements and commitments. The Government of Denmark has officially announced that it intends to establish and give impetus to the work of an independent forum for promoting and monitoring implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and, to that end, will make a considerable contribution of economic resources as part of an effort that should be shared by all Member States and by the system itself. That initiative, more than any words, reveals the determination and sense of commitment of the Government of Denmark.

It is also satisfying to note the efficient, expeditious and concerted manner in which the Secretariat of the United Nations has responded, as evidenced by the important operational decisions adopted at the last meeting of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on 12 and 13 October. The action of establishing three task forces to deal with implementation of the decisions of the Social Summit and a fourth task force related to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, with the participation of the various institutions and programmes of the United Nations system as a whole, including the Bretton Woods institutions, is a significant step forward of great importance deserving the recognition of this General Assembly.

In particular, I wish to highlight the World Bank's agreement to serve as lead agency for one of the task forces and the determination of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, Mr. Gustav Speth, that the international effort and the essential work that must be done regionally and nationally shall be given coherence and operational support through the broad network of resident coordinators in the developing countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The link between the Bretton Woods institutions and the work of the other agencies and programmes of the United Nations system is vital and urgent. Thus, this decision of the World Bank to lead the work of one of the task forces — the task force on the enabling environment for sustainable development — is of the greatest importance. If there is no comprehensive solution to the problems of development finance, international trade, access to technology and the foreign debt of developing countries, the declarations and international agreements on social development will be worthless, well-intentioned though they may be. At the same time, and in consideration of this, our countries will have to work with firmness and resolve in carrying out far-reaching State reforms and modernizing judicial systems in order to make governability a political possibility and to enable our economies to compete in the interdependent and global international environment which is our world today.

By involving the World Bank and making it an active participant in this joint effort, we are taking a crucial step, not only in the direction of effectively implementing the agreements of the various summits and international conferences, but also in the reform and restructuring of the United Nations. Just as economic and social development are two sides of one coin, as was made plain in Copenhagen, so a united and concerted effort by the economic branch and the social and political branches of the United Nations is a prerequisite for laying the foundations of international cooperation in the present and future.

In this regard, mention must also be made of similar work that is being carried out with immense vision and determination by the President of the Economic and Social Council, Ambassador Ahmad Kamal of Pakistan: the forging of operational and programmatic linkages between the Bretton Woods institutions and other agencies of the United Nations system. That is the right approach to take and it is in this same direction that we must continue to work during 1996.

The Social Summit demonstrated impressive ability of the United Nations to rally countries, non-governmental organizations and public opinion around one of the essential issues of our times. It further demonstrated, behind that enormous organizational effort and mobilization of human and intellectual resources, that a wealth of ideas and initiatives could be grouped under common objectives when the issues — even the most difficult and sensitive ones — are analysed and resolved from a comprehensive and harmonizing perspective.

Without renouncing positions of principle which, by their nature, are irrepudiable, the developing countries of the South managed to agree with the developed North, on a Declaration of principles and a Programme of Action which, only weeks after the Copenhagen meeting, became a true common platform and a meeting of the minds, as a basis on which to advance, in social as well as economic terms, towards a structure of international relations rooted in justice and equality between nations. This new spirit of conciliation, of honest and open negotiation, of assigning the proper perspective to the problems, is the new spirit with which we must face the other priority issues on the international agenda, including that of the reform and restructuring of the United Nations system.

By the will of all Member States, the General Assembly has declared 1996 the "International Year for the Eradication of Poverty". Commitment 1 of the Social Summit is precisely a reference to the eradication of absolute poverty and lays down that each country, acting sovereignly in its own context and in accordance with its own internal decision-making procedures, should, in the near future, set a year as a goal for the eradication of absolute poverty. That important definition at the national level should, in the view of my country, be established by Member States in 1996, as a way of demonstrating and making clear our determination to put into practice and fulfil the process which over the next years should lead to the fulfilment of the ten Copenhagen Commitments as an effective way to give content and meaning to the proclamation of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty.

It would be regrettable indeed if 1996 were to pass without Member States having established, clearly and resolutely as a definition of this kind warrants, the target year by which absolute poverty should be eradicated from each country and without their having set up national coordinating mechanisms, involving the public sector and private organizations representing civil society, which, with the support of the United Nations system and regional and sub-regional organizations, will meet the challenge of fulfilling Commitment 1 of the Copenhagen Summit. This is a tangible and realistic objective. It would be a way of effectively moving from words to deeds and, as of 1996, transforming the results of the Social Summit into a movement across borders, with a view to eradicating from the face of the earth the disgrace and suffering of absolute poverty.

I therefore respectfully ask all delegations to consider this initiative shared by various Member States and transmit to their respective capitals this desire to make 1996 a decisive and momentous year in the fight against extreme poverty, thus taking a step towards the fulfilment of the first Commitment of the Social Summit while also establishing, in accordance with domestic decision-making machinery, the operational and programmatic bases for integrated progress, resulting from the combined efforts of all the forces and sectors of each nation's realities, towards the effective fulfilment of the 10 Commitments of the Social Summit. Costa Rica believes that this would be an objective and feasible goal, a realistic and concrete way to give real meaning to the proclamation of 1996 as the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty.

If Member States make this the time to eradicate poverty and establish national mechanisms for coordination and collaboration for the fulfilment of the 10 Commitments of the Copenhagen Social Summit, if the United Nations system really organizes itself, and if its inter-agency and programmatic efforts link up in the way agreed at the most recent meeting of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, while including the Bretton Woods institutions in this joint effort, then we will have more than enough reason to be optimistic and to believe that a special session of the General Assembly in the year 2000 could be successfully devoted to evaluating the results of the implementation of the agreements of the Declaration and Programme of Action of the Copenhagen Social Summit, and even of the work we have done in the context of the other international Conferences and Summits that have taken place since 1990. This would be an exceptional opportunity to assess economic and social progress in the final decade of the twentieth century and to redefine goals for the twenty-first century.

After the Social Summit and the Fourth World Conference on Women this year, 1995, and the solemn declarations on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations last October, 1996 presents itself as a year of important decisions, a year to move from declarations to concrete action, a year for each Member State to establish a target date for the eradication of extreme poverty, a year to begin to move firmly and resolutely towards that special session of the General Assembly in the year 2000.

Mrs. Msuya (United Republic of Tanzania): At the outset, my delegation wishes to convey its sincere appreciation to Ambassador Juan Somavía for the sterling role he played in making the World Summit for Social Development a success. Likewise, our profound gratitude goes to the people and the Government of Denmark for hosting the Summit.

My delegation endorses the statement made by the Permanent Representative of the Philippines on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We commend the Secretary-General for his report on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, contained in document A/50/670.

In addressing the three issues of poverty eradication, the expansion of productive employment, and the enhancement of social integration at the World Summit for Social Development, the international community has taken a vital step towards the resolve

> "to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,"

as expressed in the preamble to the United Nations Charter.

The World Summit for Social Development has generated a lot of interest in many circles. One of the major commitments made in Copenhagen by both developed and developing countries is to eradicate poverty. For the commitment to be of any meaning, it has to be translated into action. In the context of my country, the United Republic of Tanzania, the imperative is to expand productive employment, which is the primary basis for the people to improve their living standard. At Copenhagen, due emphasis was placed on the importance of the participation of women and civil society in the quest for social development. Indeed, the Programme of Action provides for action by individuals, Governments and the international community, in both the public and private sectors.

One of the central challenges for Governments is to give practical meaning to the vision of people-centred development. Tanzania, despite its limited capacities, has been implementing that philosophy for the last 30 years. There have been notable successes and some problems. One important lesson we have learned is that national Governments cannot be the only players. Deliberate measures are necessary to ensure that civil society is empowered to participate in economic and social decision-making processes. No effective agenda for social or economic development can succeed without addressing the basic needs of the people. And the people have to be involved. There is plenty of empirical evidence that where they are involved very tangible results are realized both for their well-being and for that of the State.

The follow-up to Copenhagen will necessitate the prompt formulation and implementation of time-bound poverty-eradication strategies, the orientation of national budgets to meet these requirements and means for measuring the impact of national initiatives. In the case of Tanzania, agriculture will be the main target for involving the majority of our people. Investments in that sector are key to the success of the programme.

Equal rights and opportunities for all are a prerequisite for genuine development. Social integration therefore should not be seen in terms of human rights and justice alone, but in terms of a broader sense of cohesion. To reduce inequalities among people and narrow the gap between developed and developing countries, the active participation of all players is crucial.

While it is the primary responsibility of States to attain the goals identified at the Summit, these goals will be achieved by States through a broad partnership with the international community through the United Nations. In other words, many players have to be actively involved, such as international financial institutions, regional organizations, local authorities and all actors of civil society.

The Programme of Action includes recommendations on the role of the specialized agencies and, in particular, the Bretton Woods institutions in the mobilization of financial resources for social development. It is encouraging to note that with regard to debt reduction, and on the basis of decisions taken during the course of 1994 by seven major industrialized countries, the governors of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), international financial institutions are invited to explore ways of adopting additional and innovative measures to alleviate the debt burden of developing and low-income countries. The resources of the Debt Reduction Facility of the International Development Association ought to be utilized. Likewise, alternative mechanisms to complement that facility ought to be considered.

Specialized agencies and international financial institutions have a critical role to play in order to gear structural-adjustment programmes towards the objectives of social development, as recommended in Commitment 8 of the Declaration of the Summit. In most African countries these programmes have had negative effects on social development. Therefore, Governments should be assisted in protecting basic social programmes and expenditures already under way.

My delegation is encouraged by the concurrence of the Administrative Committee on Coordination with the proposal that coordinated support for country-level action should be organized around the interrelated themes of the enabling environment for social and economic development, employment and a sustainable livelihood and basic social services for all. These themes are especially relevant to a concerted attack on poverty, which constitutes a major priority objective underlying major conferences.

My delegation welcomes the arrangement for pursuing these themes in setting up task forces for follow-up, whereby the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Bank and the International Labour Organization, respectively, will act as lead agencies in addressing those themes. Pursuant to the Platform for Action adopted in Beijing last September, it will be vital to take full account of the gender dimension in the work of each of the thematic task forces.

The efforts of national Governments, specialized agencies and financial institutions in the implementation of the Programme of Action should be complemented by a willingness on the part of developed countries to take more concrete action on debt reduction, especially for African countries, in line with Commitment 6 of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. The 20/20 compact, which is seen as a novel way to reorient resources towards social development, is an initiative that should be pursued. Developed and developing countries may wish to consider how to propel this agreement forward, especially with regard to methodological and conceptual standardization.

Mr. Minoves-Triquell (Andorra) (*interpretation from French*): How can poverty be avoided? The Copenhagen Summit last March afforded us an opportunity to give some thought to that question. It brought many of us together to prepare the ground for the eventual eradication of underdevelopment, poverty and social fragmentation. It is true that many experts underestimated the importance of the Summit. The meeting was criticized — accused of a lack of realism — and sometimes even ignored as a bureaucratic exercise in futility, carried out by idealists and having no future.

That, however, is not true. Underlying the Copenhagen effort were a deep sense of concern and a very tangible determination to attack the problem of underdevelopment. And now there is a definitive text proclaiming loud and clear the international community's commitments in that respect: the Copenhagen Declaration. I am among those who believe that texts, writings and words are powerful tools in the hands of humanity. Sometimes acts precede words, it is true; sometimes it is the reverse. Here, in what concerns us today, we have a text that has been accepted by the United Nations. It is neither the best nor the worst, but it is a tool that expresses a vision of the objective of development — that we must translate into action.

We, the representatives of our States to the United Nations, must be conscious, five years before the year 2000, of the enormous responsibility on our shoulders. Modestly but surely, we can help ensure that the words we have written in New York, Rio, Copenhagen and Beijing lead to something: action on behalf of development and peace. And if a few members of the human species benefit therefrom, that will be our little contribution to humanity. Perhaps it is the impending holiday season that has inspired my beneficence; nevertheless, it goes without saying that without our active involvement the Copenhagen Declaration will have no effect.

What can we do? Briefly, at the Andorran Mission we intend to concentrate our efforts — as our Head of Government, Minister for Foreign Affairs and I myself have said on several occasions — on the implementation of paragraph (h) of Commitment 4 of the Declaration, which Andorra composed and which, if I may, I should like to recall here:

> "The Heads of State and Government will encourage the contribution of people of all age groups as equally and vitally important for the building of a harmonious society, and foster dialogue between generations in all parts of society". (*A/CONF.166/9, p. 16*)

I am strongly determined to see us engaged in a debate and in programmes of action targeting unemployment among the young and their social integration. This is a matter of exceptional urgency, since it has been estimated that in this decade the developing countries will require the creation of 260 million new jobs.

Similarly, how are we going to deal with the question of ageing? Since human beings now live longer, we must be prepared to guarantee them a dignified old age, both respectable and respected by promoting solidarity between generations. The General Assembly's decision to proclaim 1999 the International Year of Older Persons gives us an excellent opportunity to consider this subject.

It will take more than pretty words to implement the Copenhagen Declaration. We will all have to devote ourselves to developing in close cooperation most of the points we endorsed a few months ago, because in the end, poverty and lack of social integration among men, women and children in the third millennium will only reflect the spiritual poverty of those who came before. Since we are capable of changing the world, let us not leave it unchanged.

Mr. Huaraka (Namibia): The delegation of Namibia would like, first and foremost, to pay a well-deserved tribute to Ambassador Somavía of Chile for his vision and his belief in the capacity of man to do what is good. He never wavered in this vision.

At the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in March this year, the President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Mr. Sam Nujoma, said:

> "We in Namibia after our victory over apartheid realized that the struggle for the attainment of our nationhood was not complete until we had overcome poverty, ignorance, disease, unemployment and social disintegration. And with vigour and commitment, as in our first struggle, we have fully committed ourselves to the second struggle against these evils. Today, Namibia appropriates almost half of her annual budget to education and health. But even then the battle is far from being won. It is, however, a battle the Namibian people had decreed in their Constitution to fight to the end and to overcome."

This represents the commitment of the Namibian Government to fully implement the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.

At this juncture I must endorse the statement made here by the Ambassador of the Philippines on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

It is the view of the Government of the Republic of Namibia that the primary responsibility for the full implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action lies with the Member States. In this respect, immediately after the Social Summit the Namibian National Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development was transformed into an implementing and monitoring Committee. Furthermore, measures to establish regional task force groups empowered to fully involve the local communities in the policy-formulation and decision-making process on all political and social issues were also envisaged.

The Namibia National Committee for the implementation and monitoring of the outcome of the Social Summit has wide powers and functions. It is empowered to, *inter alia*, first, provide direction, establish policy and oversee the overall execution of programmes; secondly, resolve policy issues and problems identified at the programme component level; thirdly, ensure the integration of programme activities in development planning efforts of the Government; and, fourthly, liaise with other relevant bodies in the country, particularly those involved in the fight against poverty, unemployment and social disintegration.

Furthermore, we have just completed Namibia's First National Development Plan, for the period 1995 to 2000, into which our poverty-reduction efforts have been integrated. The main objectives of this Plan are: to revive and sustain economic growth; to create employment opportunities; to reduce inequalities in income distribution; and to eradicate poverty. In order to tackle the problems of poverty eradication, Namibia's First National Development Plan sets out a national framework to significantly reduce poverty in the short-to-medium term.

The First National Development Plan provides that — through accelerating economic growth — a reduction in inequality between various segments of our society, employment generation and specific programmes targeted at poverty alleviation will be integrated naturally into the implementation of the outcome of the Social Summit.

It is to be expected that, as with any developing country, one of the elements underlying poverty in Namibia is the environmental factor. Then, in our special case, there are the legacies of apartheid: educational differences; lack of access to land; lack of access to financial resources; unequal access to social services; and a constraining legal framework.

To eliminate these constraints on poverty alleviation, Government expenditure on health was increased from 14.5 per cent in 1990-91 to 15.7 per cent in 1994-95. In real terms, the increase over that period was more than 10 per cent. Efforts are being made to extend health services to the majority of the population and to redress the inequalities of the pre-independence health system, which was extremely biased in favour of the minority white population. Today our slogan is "Health for all Namibians by the year 2000".

In the field of education in Namibia, there was similar skewing, in terms of both quantity and quality, in favour of the minority whites. In 1993, education expenditure accounted for 25.3 per cent of the Government budget. The figure is expected to rise to 33 per cent in the 1995-96 financial year. Primary education accounts for over 50 per cent of education spending. Furthermore, there has been a rapid increase in enrolment; the rate rose from 60 per cent in 1990 to 83.5 per cent in 1993.

However, poverty remains prevalent in our society, despite commendable progress in the areas of health, education and food security.

I should like at this juncture to congratulate the Secretary-General on his interim report (A/50/84) on the world social situation and his report (A/50/670) on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, which are complementary. The Namibian delegation concurs with the Secretary-General's proposal that a special session be convened in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. As the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Namibia stated this year during the general debate, the time has come to digest what we have decided at all the major world summits and conferences.

My delegation would thus welcome the operational format envisaged by the Secretary-General, with the establishment through the Administrative Committee on Coordination of three interagency task forces: on basic social services for all, with the United Nations Population Fund as lead agency; on income generation for the poor and the attainment of full employment and sustainable livelihoods, with the International Labour Organization as lead agency; and on an enabling environment for sustainable human development, with the World Bank as lead agency.

My delegation would therefore wish to emphasize that, in this highly globalized world, a coordinated approach to the outcome of all these major conferences will contribute significantly to bringing greater coherence and integration to the work of the United Nations.

Equally, it is important that the Commission for Social Development, as the functional commission responsible for the monitoring and implementation within the United Nations system of the Programme of Action, should be provided with sufficient resources to enable it to ensure effective follow-up to the social Summit.

My delegation remains optimistic that, by the time of the review in the year 2000, the world will have reached a level where the most basic right of life, that is, the right to remain human, has been achieved.

Mr. Bergh (South Africa): The President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr. Nelson Mandela, stated in Copenhagen in March this year that it was his profound wish that the United Nations World Summit for Social Development would go down in history as one which had made a difference to the quality of life for millions around the world. He also said that

> "Humility, induced by the heavy responsibility which rests upon all of us, demands that we not postpone the decisions and concrete programmes which will set us on a path which sees the world transformed into a better home for all".

In line with this call by President Mandela, my Government has embarked on a process of fundamentally reforming the welfare system of South Africa through the development of a new policy and strategy, set out in a draft White Paper. With this, South Africa has taken up the challenge of making welfare a tool of national social development and ending its popular image of "handouts" and of creating dependency. This policy is in accordance with the approach and priorities of our Reconstruction and Development Programme, the Constitution of South Africa and the commitments that Governments made at the World Summit for Social Development.

This new policy document cites key substantive issues in the restructuring of social welfare services, developmental programmes and societal security. The document firmly commits our Government of National Unity to the development of an equitable, people-centred, democratic and sustainable welfare system. The new welfare system will facilitate the development of human capacity, self-reliance and the promotion of social well-being. It will create an enabling socio-economic environment, needed to assist people to become self-reliant. The goals contained in the document were set by the broad welfare community after one of the most extensive programmes of consultation ever undertaken by a South African Government department. Apart from the 150 national organizations participating, there were also some 600 submissions received, most of which were integrated into the draft White Paper.

The South African Department of Welfare and Population Development has already started work on a five-year strategic plan which will enable the country to reach the goals set out in the draft White Paper. The plan will target the 40 per cent of our population who are the poorest and the most in need of social assistance, as well as those people who are vulnerable and at risk. Its priorities will include the following: a national plan of action for families, children and youth, and programmes for the prevention, alleviation and reduction of poverty, counteracting the abuse of women and empowering them economically, fighting drug and alcohol abuse, addressing the impact of chronic illnesses such as HIV/AIDS, and promoting the rights of people with physical and mental disabilities.

The way to achieve these goals will be through family-centred and community-based care and rehabilitation programmes. Development welfare programmes will be implemented by enabling communities to take up the challenge of entering into partnership with Government to meet basic needs at the local level. People in need will be cared for in their own communities, and institutional care will be used only as a last resort, where appropriate.

The ending of racial and geographic disparities in services and facilities funded by the Government is a priority. To this end, a representative committee has been appointed to develop a plan of action to reprioritize welfare programmes and to phase out any inequities that may still exist. This committee will also advise the Minister of Welfare and Population Development on financing criteria for institutions and community services, including time frames, targets, performance indicators and a changed management plan.

The Government believes it has the responsibility to deliver services and social programmes on a large scale, as it has the mandate, resources and infrastructure to do so. Organizations in civil society are, however, well placed to address local needs and to innovate and pioneer new services which, if successful, could be replicated on a wider scale.

Non-governmental organizations have an important partnership role to play with the South African Government in policy development, in direct service delivery, in facilitating development, in advocacy, and in ensuring the accountability of the Government. The partnership between Government, civil society and the private sector will therefore be strengthened.

Policies and programmes will be developed through the collaboration of governmental and non-governmental sectors to pool resources and make the maximum impact on poverty alleviation and reduction. There are approximately 10,000 social service and development non-governmental organizations in South Africa. In future all non-governmental organizations will be accorded the same status, with the same rights and responsibilities.

My Government has, as a direct follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, declared war on poverty. To this end, social welfare policies and programmes will be developed to target the prevention, alleviation and reduction of poverty. Furthermore the capacity of the people to take charge of their own circumstances in a meaningful way will also be developed.

As this project has just been launched, my Government hopes to offer more detailed input on this during the thirty-fifth session of the Commission for Social Development.

Mr. Dlamini (Swaziland): My delegation appreciates the report (A/50/670) of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and the report (A/CONF.166/9) of the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen in March 1995.

When His Majesty King Mswati III joined other world leaders at the Summit he committed the Kingdom of Swaziland to strive against poverty and for a goal of full employment and the fostering of a safe and just society. Today we reaffirm our commitment.

The implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development is a serious task. In addition to political commitments, it requires a review of economic policies and mobilization of new and additional financial resources. It also requires cooperation at regional and international levels and assistance from partners in development and United Nations agencies for its full implementation.

The Secretary-General recalls in his report that the Summit addressed issues of universal relevance. The three main issues of poverty eradication, unemployment and social integration, including the 10 Commitments, cut across the responsibilities of national government machineries and the mandates of different organizations within the system. Participation and responsibilities of the private sector, the media, non-governmental organizations and civil society are regarded by my delegation as very important in the implementation of the outcome of the Copenhagen Summit.

The strengthening of community organizations and non-profit, non-governmental organizations in the spheres of education, health, poverty, social integration, human rights and other areas emphasizes the need to support and encourage the development of such organizations, particularly among the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

My delegation firmly believes that the Summit provided a landmark for a people-centred strategy for sustainable development. The involvement of all groups of people in development means that there is a move towards productivity, equality, sustainability and empowerment. Gender issues need to be addressed as development issues and as human rights concerns. We acknowledge that it is only when the potential of human beings is fully realized that we can talk of true development in a society of human beings. We cannot, therefore, ignore the fact that women play a major role in development and peace, and, as such, it is vital that efforts by women should be incorporated in our national strategies, as adopted in the Beijing Platform for Action recently.

It is equally important to integrate the participation of youth, especially the girl-child, in the development process. At the Summit it was indicated that, with an increasing population, the number of youth living in poverty will increase significantly and specific measures are needed to address this. Access to training, education and employment services to protect children and youth is essential. At this point, I should like to refer to His Majesty's statement at the recent Commemorative Meeting on the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, when he spoke of youth

> "whose expectations and hopes … for the future of mankind must form the focus for the United Nations in the next 50 years." *(Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Plenary Meetings, 38th meeting, pp. 1-2)*

They are future actors in all aspects of societies, and we should secure their future today. If not by developing their minds and equipping them with skills, then how else can their future be secured?

I now wish to focus on Africa. At the beginning of this year, Africa's debt stock still presented a gloomy picture. One of Africa's main problems in development is its persistent external debt burden, which in most cases exceeds a country's development problem. It is in this regard that we should remind this Assembly of the commitment made by all our Heads of State and Government to

> "establish a more favourable climate for trade and investment, give priority to human resource development" *(A/CONF.166/9, Commitment 7, para. (a))*

and to

> "Support the domestic efforts of Africa and the least developed countries to implement economic reforms, programmes to increase food security, and commodity diversification efforts through international cooperation, including South-South cooperation and technical and financial assistance, as well as trade and partnership". (*ibid., para. (b)*)

Swaziland believes that for development to take place there should be an enabling environment for people's empowerment and the building up of people's capacities for self-reliance. It is thus essential that even the system of governance should be all-inclusive and more participatory in decision-making. It is for this reason that Swaziland believes that true democracy should not refer only to political party executives and academics; rather, it should embrace the entire populace of the country.

Focusing on my own country, I wish to add that our 27 years of independence have seen remarkable economic progress and transformation. However, the bulk of the Swazi people are still largely outside the mainstream of economic activity. It was in the light of this that His Majesty King Mswati III commissioned the gathering of views from the entire Swazi populace at all levels.

The Economic Review Commission recently recommended that employment creation and the provision of economic opportunities should receive the highest priority in Swaziland. Furthermore, the Commission was convinced, on the basis of the submissions of Swazis at all levels, that higher living standards for all must be based on more productive work for all. This will entail an expanded role of the private sector, including provision of special measures to stimulate the development of local entrepreneurs.

Of equal importance will be recognition of the fact that women are the backbone of the economy. It is therefore necessary to remove all the obstacles that prevent women from playing a bigger role in the economy.

His Majesty has taken the lead in implementing the recommendations of that Commission. On 17 November 1995 His Majesty launched a small- and medium-enterprise support scheme for unemployed people, including pensioners. A share of the funds to establish the scheme was donated by friendly nations, and we appreciate such gestures.

A beginning was made at Copenhagen, with a summation of all views expressed there and at other United Nations conferences, and with an eye to future conferences. Now it is time to move forward and implement all those ideals and hopes for the future inhabitants of this planet, to whom we owe so much and to whom we should give an account of what the United Nations has done for their nations. Swaziland is still working on a framework for international cooperation, in the context of the Agenda for Development, in order to ensure the integrated and comprehensive implementation, follow-up and assessment of the outcome of the Summit, together with the results of the other United Nations conferences on social development, including the upcoming United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

In addition to national efforts, Swaziland will participate relentlessly at, *inter alia*, the Southern African Development Community and Organization of African Unity levels, and, of course, at the United Nations level whenever an opportunity to share views concerning this subject presents itself.

Programme of Work

The Acting President: I should like to clarify the programme of work of the General Assembly for tomorrow.

Tomorrow morning, the Assembly will first take up agenda item 21, "University for Peace", for the purpose of taking action on draft resolution A/50/L.42/Rev.1, which has been distributed in the General Assembly Hall. The Assembly will next continue its consideration of agenda item 161, "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development".

Also tomorrow, the Assembly will consider agenda item 165, "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace", after the conclusion of the debate on agenda item 161.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.